

Navy News

PLAIN ENGLISH CAMPAIGN AWARD WINNER

SEPTEMBER 1999

80p



**Royal view
of war** p16



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WIN!

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PLUS

Raleigh cycle equipment p26

MARINE TO HEAD

THINK TANK



A 'THINK TANK' to provide a long-term vision of the way Britain expects its Armed Forces to develop is being set up at Shrivenham, Swindon.

The latest in Adriatic swimwear

IT'S WHAT every fashion-conscious bomb-hunter in the Adriatic *must* wear this season. The functional lines of this fetching outfit are shown off to superb effect by a model from the minehunter HMS Sandown, one of two British ships operating in a NATO force tasked with cleaning up the Allied bombs that went astray during the Balkans War. This shot was taken by NATO photographer CPO(PHOT) Stuart Antrobus. More pictures of the mission - codename Operation Harvest - appear in page 4.

The Joint Doctrine and Concepts Centre (JDCC) was being formed on September 1 to provide a "truly Joint Service" view of the future of the Services and their methods of operation.

The Centre, envisaged by the Strategic Defence Review, will formulate, develop and review joint

OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SIERRA LEONE HOSTAGE MARINE - PAGE 3

doctrine at the military-strategic, operational and joint tactical levels. It will co-ordinate single-Service tactical doctrine and provide the UK input to Allied multinational doctrine.

It will also lead Britain's contribution in promoting doctrine for peace support operations with other government departments, non-government organisations and the international community.

It will contribute to MCD's planning and will be central to "evolving security thinking".

Destroyer in fight to save sanction-breaker



BIRMINGHAM'S DATE WITH A SINKING DHOW

Some may be too SAD for Arctic ops

ARMED Forces medical experts have cited SAD – or seasonal affective disorder – as an illness which can affect Service people operating in cold environments.

"SAD is a recognised condition characterised by low mood and social withdrawal," says a new Joint Service Defence Council Instruction on the prevention and treatment of cold-related illness and injuries.

In regions – such as northern Norway where the Royal Marines exercise – long periods of darkness may be debilitating.

The remedy? "Recreation may help but the condition improves as daylight lengthens. Consideration should be given to evacuating any individuals, who are severely affected, from theatre."

Other problems listed and advised upon include altitude sickness, carbon monoxide poisoning when cooking in confined spaces, and the increased risk of accidental injury.

And: "Service personnel who are unwell, unfit, hungry or who have a history of previous cold-related injury or illness, however mild, will be at increased risk."

WHEN HMS Birmingham boarded a sanction-breaking dhow in the Gulf, she found more than she bargained for. Not only was the vessel carrying contraband, but was slowly sinking.

The boarding party, made up of all ranks and rates from the Type 42 destroyer, found that the cockroach-infested dhow's cargo consisted of dates which would later be turned into illicit alcohol.

During the seven days that it took Birmingham to escort the dhow to Kuwait, an armed party had to be on board 24 hours a day. Meanwhile, to keep her afloat the destroyer's shipwright, CMEM(M) Steve Hayward took a small team on board the stricken craft to

repair the leaking hull.

Thanks to their efforts the dhow managed to stay afloat long enough for her to be handed over to Kuwaiti Customs officers who confiscated the cargo.

The dhow incident is among several boardings being conducted by Birmingham in support of UN sanctions against Iraq. The operations are being conducted either by ship's boat or by fast-roping to the deck from the warship's Lynx helicopter.

Also present in the Gulf is the tanker RFA Orangeleaf, the air-



● HMS Birmingham sailors guard the sanction-breaking dhow. They are (l-r) LWEM Dan Barley, PO Chris Pearson and MEM Ian Osmond. Top – Birmingham against the glow of a Gulf sunset.

Pictures: LA(PHOT) Paul O'Shaughnessy

craft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, the guided missile frigate USS Halyburton and her Australian sister-ship HMAS Melbourne.

Birmingham is due to leave the

Gulf on October 12 when she will be relieved on duty by HMS Exeter. It will mark the end of her last foreign deployment before she decommissions in December.

Sex changes 'a medical issue' alone for Services

FOLLOWING press reports that a male Army sergeant has become a woman, the Ministry of Defence has made it clear that people who have undergone sex changes would not for that reason alone be denied membership of the Armed Forces.

A MOD spokesman told Navy News: "It is a medical, not a sexual issue and people who have changed gender are considered for appointment to the Services in the same way as anyone else."

"This involves very few people – perhaps no more than two or three at present, and each instance is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Whether or not transsexuals are acceptable as members of the Armed Forces is judged purely on an individual basis, as a long-term

medical matter and whether they are able to fulfil the Services' fitness and medical requirements."

As Navy News went to press the Royal Navy Medical Board of Survey was reviewing the case of Lynda Cash who served in HMS Invincible during the Falklands War as Brian Walling before changing sex.

The spokesman said Mr Walling was discharged from the Navy in 1986 when there were concerns over his state of mind, and it was decided that he was temperamentally unsuitable. During that process the Navy learned of the sex-change issue.

This year Miss Cash lost a case she had brought for unfair dismissal. However, the Navy admits that she may have been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the Falklands War, hence the review.

The Ministry spokesman said that far less was known and understood about the condition 13 years ago. He said if the RN board judged her to have been ill rather than emotionally unfitted she would be deemed to have been invalided out of the Service and probably would be eligible for a backdated pension and terminal grant.

However, he said press reports that any payment would amount to a six-figure sum were exaggerated.

Warning over Freemasonry membership

THE ARMED Services have warned that membership by Service people of organisations of a secretive nature, such as the Freemasons, risks "establishing disparate loyalties which may have a de-stabilising influence on the chain of command".

That could take the form of a perception of preferential treatment and undue influence, says a new Joint Service Defence Council Instruction (JS 75/99).

It makes it clear that serving personnel should not encourage or promote membership among their colleagues, and that meetings should not be held on, or use made of, Ministry of Defence property.

The DCI does, however, point out that there is no policy to preclude Service personnel from membership of any lawful and benevolent organisation.

Royal opening for museum's new gallery

THE PRINCESS Royal will open the new Victory Gallery at the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth on Trafalgar Day – October 21.

The gallery completes the first stage in a £5 million redevelopment of the museum, and centres on the story of HMS Victory. Princess Anne, the museum's president, also opened the Sailing Navy Gallery in March.

After the ceremony she will stay in Portsmouth for the annual Trafalgar Night dinner on board Victory, flagship of the Second Sea Lord, Admiral Sir John Brigstocke.

Princess meets a crew with Talent

THE PRINCESS Royal engages in deep discussion with crew members of HM submarine Talent during a damage control exercise while the boat was dived.

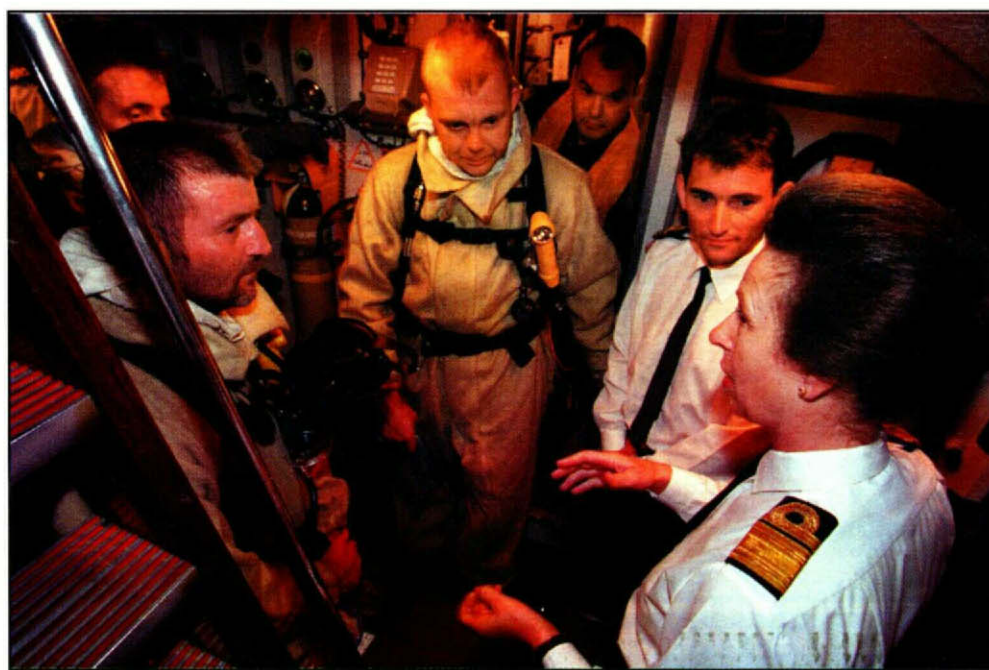
Princess Anne paid an informal visit to the Trafalgar-class attack submarine at the end of a hectic operational phase for the boat.

She joined Talent in Plymouth Sound, where she was briefed by the Commanding Officer, Cdr Bob Tarrant, as the vessel sailed to the South Coast Exercise Areas.

Princess Anne joined the watchkeepers on the open bridge atop the fin as the boat returned to Devonport.

She launched Talent in 1988 and enjoys a special relationship with the ship's company. She last went to sea in her exactly four years ago.

She was accompanied by Cdr Simon Shield, the new CO, who took over as the submarine started an extended period of maintenance in Devonport.



IRON DUKE RETURNS

ROYAL Marine bandmen on board HMS Westminster prepare to welcome HMS Iron Duke alongside at Portsmouth after a six-month deployment in the Adriatic.

The ship had been with the seven other ships of the Standing Naval Force Mediterranean since January. During the first air strikes against Serbia she spent many weeks patrolling off the coast in defence watches – the routine for most of her time away, in which her ship's company worked six hours on and six hours off – unsure if Serbian naval forces would launch strikes against the NATO units.

Since leaving the UK the Type 23 frigate has visited Gibraltar, Bari (six times), Trieste, Catania, Barcelona, Venice, Salerno and Alexandria.

In a message of gratitude to members of the Armed Forces involved in the Kosovo crisis, Prime Minister Tony Blair said: "The job is not yet complete. Kosovo has to be rebuilt and the whole of the Balkans will need continuing support. We also have to ensure that Milosevic is ousted, so there are many difficult issues still before us. . . This has been a team effort and the United Kingdom has played a key role in ensuring that the NATO Alliance prevailed. This would not have been possible without the professionalism shown by British personnel at all levels throughout the crisis. You can be justly proud of the part you have played."



Belgrano tribute by 1SL

THE FIRST Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, spent four days in Argentina – the first visit by the head of the Royal Navy since the Falklands conflict.

He met his opposite number in the Argentine Navy, Admiral Carlos Marron, called on the frigate Almirante Brown at sea and had an audience with President Carlos Menem.

Admiral Boyce told Navy News the visit epitomised the "rapidly improving" relations between the UK and Argentina – and particularly those between the two navies.

Admiral Boyce lays a wreath at the memorial to the cruiser General Belgrano, sunk by HMS Conqueror in 1982. In the background is ARA Hercules, one of the two Argentinian Type 42 destroyers.



Sierra Leone RM hostage is to stay on

THE ROYAL Marines officer taken hostage by rebels in Sierra Leone has told Navy News in an exclusive interview that he will be staying on in the West African state to complete his six-month tour of duty as a UN monitor.

Speaking to us from UN headquarters in Freetown, Maj Justin McKeown said he and four Army officers – all unarmed – were seized by rebels on August 4, less than a week after he had arrived in the country.

"We were part of a UN team who had been invited to observe and assist the process of ensuring the release of about 150 non-combatants who were in the hands of rebel soldiers," he said.

"We had been to that location

the previous day without incident, and there was no indication that anything untoward was going to happen."

The first sign the party had that all was not well was when they were searched – that had not happened before. Then a group of rebel leaders entered the room and suddenly armed rebel troops burst in.

Initially the group – including a Sierra Leone bishop – felt there was a distinct possibility that they would be shot.

"The first impression is very

uncertain the moment a gun is pointed in your face and your belongings are taken," said Maj McKeown.

However, the immediate threat receded. The rebels – a collection of different, disaffected groups – took their captives to a village and the tension eased. "We spent an awful lot of time talking with them. They were very keen to put their point across. We were not ill-treated and they gave us sufficient food, water and shelter."

After a few days, and amid some confusion, the rebels released the first group of captives, including Maj McKeown and one of the Army officers, Lt Col Ian Howard-Williams.

They were handed over to the UN and taken to a secure base in Freetown from where they were able to phone their worried families.

"It was a very informative start to my tour of duty," said the major. "In the following few days the other hostages taken with me were freed and eventually so too were the non-combatants we had been sent to help. So in the end our original mission had been achieved."

He added: "I came here from a job as RM liaison officer in northern Norway – so it was a change that could hardly be greater. I will probably get some leave while I'm here, but I will remain to complete my six-month tour of duty which is due to end in February."

JACK ET JACQUES

Le Driving Leçon

(Dans le centre lane du M25, dans le rush heure près de Staines.)

"Pour la dernière fois, Jacques! Nous allons en voiture à gauche en ce country. Somehow, vous avez trouble avec ça even sur le motorway! Et il y a un police car derrière nous!"

"Pardon, Jack! J'ai oublié. C'est très confusing quand le driver's seat est aussi au mauvais cote de la voiture. . . Mais c'est très gentil de vous to teach moi le driving à un cut-prix rate. Je ne savais pas que les leçons étaient so expensiv dans le UK! Un mille francs pour une heure! Gosh! et vous êtes content avec fifty quid! Et quand je suis fini, vous me donnerez un personal signed certificate pour competence en driving valable dans tous les pays du monde? Vous êtes un bon ami, Jack!"

"Yeah, well – think rien about it, Jacques. C'est what being les amis est all about. . . OK, soon nous essayerons "le trois pointe turn –"

"C'est dead facile pour moi, Jack! Regardez ceci!"

"Pas maintenant, Jacques, pour Christ's sake – pas maintenant! Oh mon Dieu!"

(Jacques jette la voiture into un rapid trois pointe turn. KERRUNCH!)

"Allo, allo, allo! Qu'est-ce que c'est que nous avons ici? Deux membres de notre splendide Royal Navy! Je suis toujours pleased to voir les autres boys en bleu! Even quand they 'ave written off ma lovely police voiture dont j'étais so proud. Et even quand they 'ave fait un tailback de vingt miles. . ."

"Excusez moi, officier – je ne suis pas RN. Je suis un matelot de la Marine Nationale!"

"Eh?"

"Je suis un homme Francais, monsieur!"

"Oh, ça explique everything! J'apologise, monsieur. Naturellement, vous ne comprenez pas les règles de driving ici. En ce cas, votre ami – il should 'ave been driving, je crois."

"Non! Vous ne comprenez pas, officier! Ce n'est pas sa faute! Jack, il est mon Instructeur de Driving! Il m'a dit "Une trois pointe turn, Jacques!" Et je must 'ave misunderstood 'im!"

"Est ça vrai, monsieur? Puis je voir vos credentials comme "Instructeur de Driving", Jack?"

"Oh, hell feu, Jacques! Vous ne comprenez pas what vous avez done. . ."

"Monsieur l'officier! Je vous en prie! Jack 'as been so genereux à moi! Il est seulement charging moi fifty quid un heure pour les leçons!"

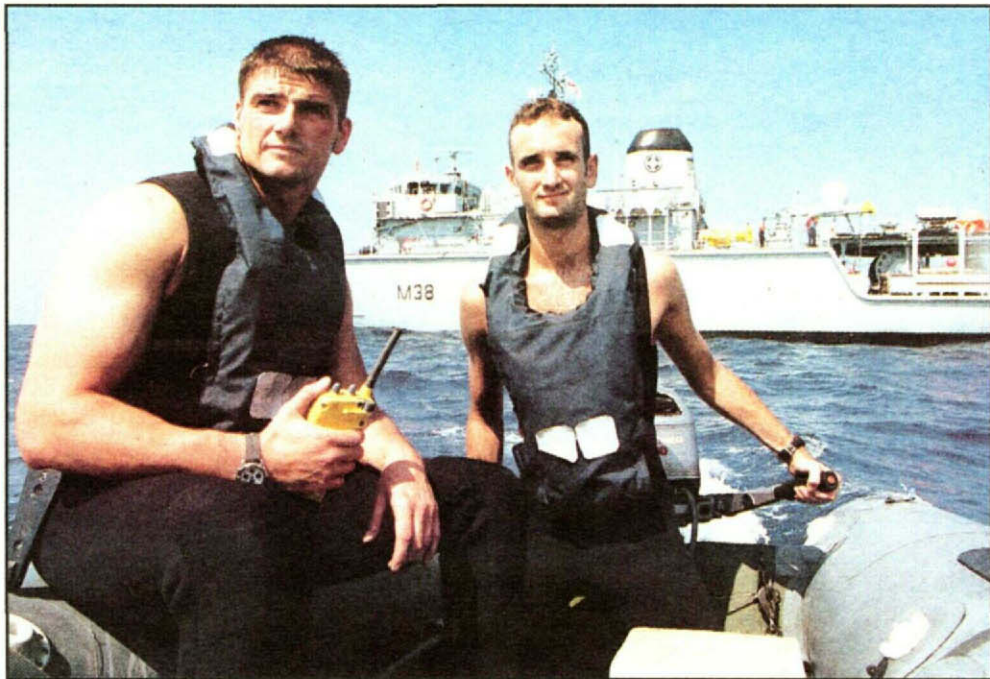
"Mmm. . . Je crois qu'il a done vous, mon cher monsieur. Et maintenant – et avec grand plaisir – je will do 'im!"



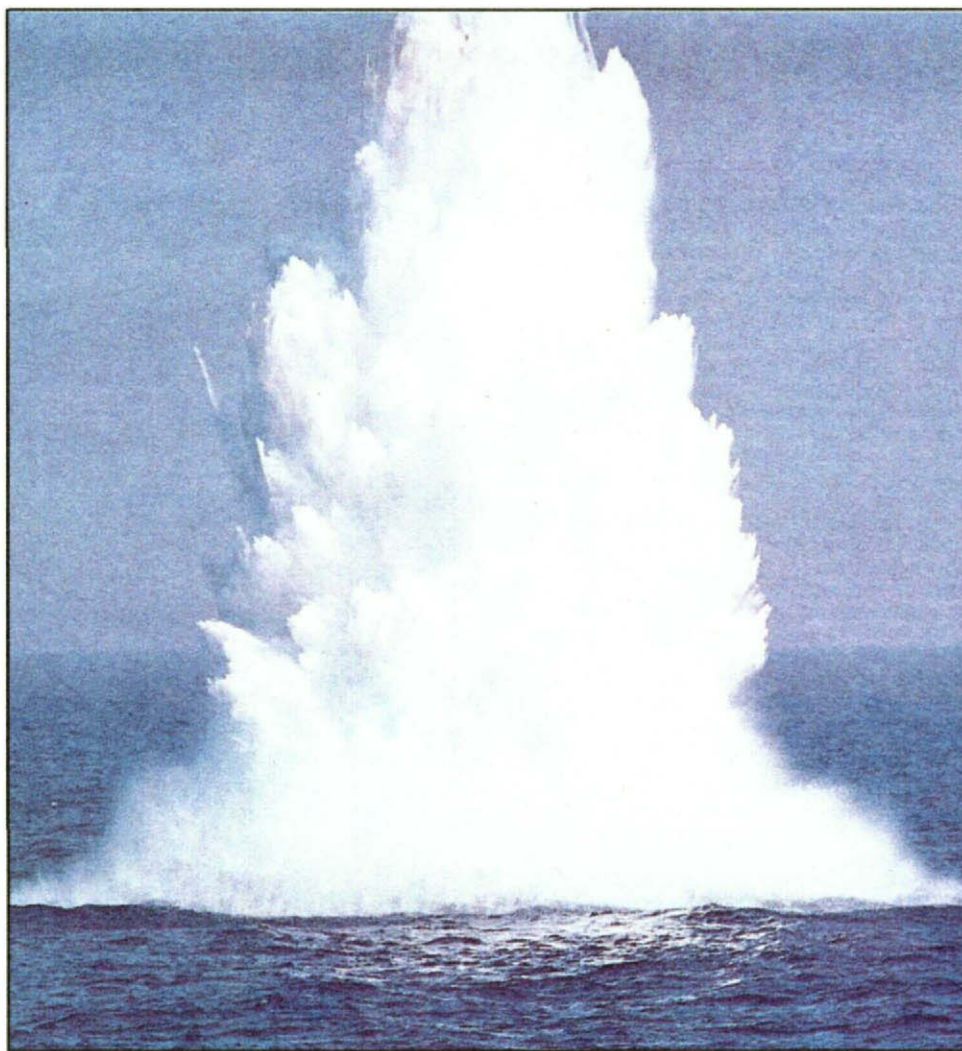
Illustrations par TWA.



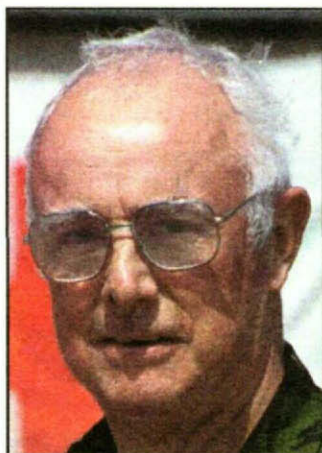
Blast act in the Kosovo campaign



AB DIVERS Artie Shaw (left) and Sean Dunstan watch the results of their handiwork – a great plume of spray thrown up by the detonation of an Allied bomb that for one reason or another failed to reach its target during NATO's air campaign in the Balkans. Both men are members of the ship's company of the minehunter HMS Atherstone which with HMS Sandown have been part of the NATO Mine Countermeasures Force North. The group had been tasked with clearing up bombs that were dropped in the sea as a result of aborted missions. With the help of HMS Bulldog as command ship, they found and destroyed about 80 bombs before Bulldog returned home on August 13. Atherstone and Sandown are due back in mid-September. Pictures: PO(Phot) Dave Coombs



And a dangerous monster is dealt with at home



● Lt Col Waterworth – took a drop in rank to join TA.

Former RNR top surgeon saves life of shot Serb

A FORMER Medical Director of the RNR who dropped two ranks to stay in the Reserves as a Territorial Army surgeon has saved the life of a Serb shot in Kosovo.

Lt Col Alan Waterworth – who as a Surgeon Captain was obliged to leave the RNR – is on a six-week tour of duty with 22 Field Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps based at Lipljan near Pristina. He is on leave from his post as a consultant general surgeon with the National Health Trust at Walsgrave, near Rugby.

Col Waterworth was the main surgeon who treated the victims of the Birmingham pub bombings in the 1970s – “a gruesome experience” – and through that developed a major interest in bomb-blast and battle wounds.

This time he removed a bullet from the stomach of a Serbian man hit in a passer-by shooting. The victim had suffered wounds to his stomach and liver.

Col Waterworth (57) spent 30 years in the RNR and had to leave due to his seniority in age and appointment. “It bemuses people at formal gatherings when a lieutenant colonel arrives wearing the Naval Reserve Decoration and Bar,” he said.

“Here in Pristina I will be dealing with a mixture of locals and military people, lots of individuals of all ages. I will be treating both military-type injuries and serious non-military ones.”

NEARER home, Navy explosives experts were dealing with a still-dangerous relic from a war fought over 50 years ago.

Members of the RN's Southern Diving Unit 2 (SDU2) based at Portsmouth were called out on July 23 to deal with a mine trawled up by a fishing vessel off the Essex coast near Bradwell.

When they arrived they found the most formidable type of World War II German mine – a GC ground mine containing 1,536lb of hexanitro high explosive.

Their task was complicated by the fact that the mine was still on the trawler's deck, the master being understandably reluctant to move it to drop it over the side.

“The problem with these kind of mines is that they are very powerful and usually found in very good condition, as this one was,” said the diving team leader, CPO(D) Cliff Richardson. “Our first task was to make it stable on the trawler's deck to stop it moving around.”

Using lifting gear the team – including PO(D) Jim Lynch RNR and LS(D)s Taff Kennedy and Billy Holman – swung the mine outboard and lowered it to the seabed in a few metres of water in a safe area.

When they detonated it with 4lb of explosive, it sent a column of water over 400ft into the air.

Other members of SDU2 were called out a few days later to dispose of small arms and ammunition found in the River Leam at Leamington Spa. In a two-day operation they recovered and destroyed ten rifles, five pistols and



300 assorted rounds, thought to have been dumped there at the end of World War II.

Members of the team on that operation were PO(D) Andy Pearce, LS(D)s Andy Kirby and Andy Anderson-Hanney, and AB(D) Naps Napthine.

● CPO Cliff Richardson examines the German 1,500lb ground mine before it was gingerly lowered over the side of the trawler that had brought it up in its nets. The mine had lain on the seabed for well over 50 years and was dangerously well preserved.

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New lease of life for Sir Bedivere

VERSATILE Royal Fleet Auxiliary landing ship Sir Bedivere has undergone major changes in her lifetime.

Built on the Tyne in the mid-1960s, the LSL (landing ship logistic) was first owned by the Army and operated by the British India Steam Navigation Company, sporting their white-hulled, blue-striped livery.

But in 1970 she and five sister-ships transferred to the RFA, where her role is to support amphibious operations by landing troops, tanks, vehicles and other heavy equipment.

To enhance that capability, Sir

Bedivere entered a Ship's Life Extension Programme at Rosyth in 1994, emerging three-and-a-half years later as a bigger, better ship.

Her hull had been stretched by 12 metres, providing extra accommodation and room for equipment and stores, her flight deck had been lowered a deck and her bridge raised a deck.

In all, her displacement has risen from the original 5,770 tonnes to around 6,700 tonnes.

Sir Bedivere was also re-engined with two Stork-Wartsila turbo-charged diesels, and she got a new bow-thruster unit with more than double the power of the original.

A new information and control system was built into the ship, giving an integrated system of



● New lease of life – RFA Sir Bedivere sporting Mexiflotes on her sides.

machinery control, surveillance and damage control, the bow doors were strengthened, and the superstructure has been redesigned to reduce the radar signature.

The ship has special design features which put her in great demand for service with British,

NATO and United Nations forces.

In essence she is part landing craft, part roll-on, roll-off ferry. She has bow and stern doors for rapid loading and unloading, and a shallow draught allowing her to be beached if there is no secure port.

She and her sister LSLs are routinely used to freight vehicles and equipment for the Royal Marines and Army, and she can operate large helicopters from her flight deck aft and the vehicle deck amidships, allowing the airlifting of equipment and personnel ashore.

Sir Bedivere won her Battle Honour in the Falklands, surviving a near-miss when a bomb passed through her yard-arm and bounced into the sea before exploding.

She also saw service in the Gulf War, and was involved in operations off the coast of former Yugoslavia in support of British and UN peace-keeping forces.

Following post-rebuild trials, including cold-weather trials off Canada and warm-weather trials off Cyprus, Sir Bedivere completed sea training in March and has worked up with HMS Ocean in preparation for the Argonaut Task Group deployment to the Mediterranean, due to depart last month.

BATTLE HONOUR

South Atlantic 1982

Facts and figures

Class: Landing Ship Logistic (LSL)

Pennant number: L3004

Builder: Hawthorn Leslie

Launched: July 20, 1966

Commissioned: May 18, 1967

Transferred to RFA: 1970

Port of registry: London

Displacement: 6,700 tonnes

Lloyds Classification: +100 A1

+LMC Class 1 RO-RO Passenger

Length: 134.4 metres

Beam: 18.2 metres

Draught: 4 metres

Speed: 18 knots

Complement: 59

Machinery: Two Stork-Wartsila

SW280 turbo-charged diesels; two

shafts; bow-thruster

Armament: Four Oerlikon 20mm

guns; four 7.62mm machine guns

Aircraft: Platforms for Gazelle,

Lynx, Merlin or Chinook

Military lift: 350 troops (534 hard

lying); 18 MBTs; 34 mixed vehi-

cles; 120 tonnes POL; 30 tonnes

ammunition; one 25-tonne crane;

two 4.5 tonne cranes; capacity for

20 helicopters (11 on tank deck,

nine on vehicle deck)

● Saluting platform – German ship Alexander von Humboldt, with her distinctive green sails, passes HMS Brecon in the Clyde. Picture: LA(PHOT) Rob Harding (FOSNNI).



Royal duty

SHIPS of the Northern Ireland Squadron do not often bathe in the glare of publicity.

But HMS Brecon had two reasons to hit the headlines as the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race visited Greenock on the Clyde.

The Hunt-class mine countermeasures vessel, commanded by Lt Cameron Steil, was the RN guardship at the event, which drew crowds estimated at almost one million people.

And as the 70-plus ships left, bound for Lerwick, Brecon was host to a royal VIP, with Princess Alexandra taking the salute.

Members of the Royal Naval Reserve acted as interpreters and liaison officers for the visiting crews, representing 16 nations including Russia and Mexico.



● Winning smile – 11-year-old David Russell won the Faslane Fair poster competition. His school, Colgrain Primary, got a CD-ROM version of Encyclopaedia Britannica, and David, pictured with OM(C) Allan Stewardson, won a day at the Tall Ships Race in HMS Brecon for himself and his family.

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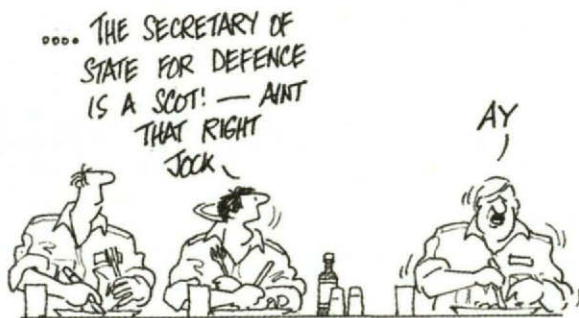
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JACK

BY TUGS



Totem mystery

REGARDING your article 'Totem mystery solved' (July issue), from the description of the wrecked submarine's condition I tend to agree that the Dakar was most probably not sunk by Israel's enemies.

However, collision with a "large, unknowing merchant ship" as suspected by Brig Gen Gideon Raz is extremely unlikely.

A painstaking investigation of the process of refitting, which the Totem underwent in the UK, would perhaps be more useful. This submarine had been cut apart during refitting and a new centre section, allowing installation of additional batteries (for speed and underwater endurance) had been inserted. I believe a new conning tower had also been installed. Pressure hulls can distort when severed and disconnected from previously matching sections and such a hull extension could have caused catastrophic structural failure. — F. M. Liebrich, London

Practice needed

WHEN attending this year's final Royal Tournament, I, along with the rest of the audience, was enthralled by the abseiling and hand-to-hand combat display of the Royal Marines during their attack, simultaneously, on an igloo somewhere in the frozen wastes of the Arctic Circle and a tent in the heat of the desert.

However, my reverence was somewhat tempered by their disturbing inability to hit six 'baddies' at a range of no more than 30m, despite a combined semi-automatic rifle cannonade of at least 1,000 rounds.

The situation was only resolved when a Royal Navy frigate "patrolling five miles offshore" demolished the enemy camp with two rounds. — WO(CAS) R. W. Chalmers, Armed Forces Careers Office, Brighton.

Letters to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

Interrupted speech led to royal riposte

YOUR editorial anecdote about King George VI in the June issue reminded me of a story dating from 1946. In July of that year, HMS Colossus, in which I was serving as a midshipman, was en route from the East Indies to Portsmouth. In Port Said, we embarked the then Crown Prince and Princess of Greece for passage to the UK.

Crown Prince Paul spent much of his day on the compass platform, chatting casually to the captain and others, and I heard him tell the following story.

At dinner with King George a year or two earlier, conversation turned to the admirals who were then in the news, but the King's speech impediment was troubling him. As is often irresistible in such circumstances, the Crown Prince tended to complete the words his friend was trying to say.

"M-m-m-m," said the King, and the Prince said "Mountbatten?" "No," said the King, "M-m-Fraser."

A few minutes later the King referred to "C-c-c-c", to which the helpful Prince added "Cunningham?" only to be told by an increasingly exasperated King,

"No, C-c-c-Vian!"

When the Prince guessed wrong the third time, the King's patience was exhausted, but he managed to

say "Whose b-b-b-bloody Navy is this, anyhow — yours or mine?" — Cdr J. A. Palmer, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Oh, what a lovely war!

THE REPORT that 'Ordinary' rates were being abolished (April issue) prompts me to tell you how it was that I spent all my time in the Navy (December 1942 — May 1946) as an O/Tel, never changing my status from entry to discharge, a "feat" that I was led to believe

was unique at that time and will now never be achieved again.

Having passed out from HMS Collingwood/HMS Scotia with a recommendation for early advancement to Tel, I was drafted to Freetown (HMS Edinburgh Castle) in September, 1943. Just before taking the exam necessary to be rated Tel I

was drafted to HMRT Antic, the duty rescue tug in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Although this was a British-built tug and was designated W141, it was in fact manned by a Dutch crew and flew the Dutch flag. In addition to the Dutch, who were merchant seamen, there were three DEMS gunners, a Coder and a Telegraphist from the RN acting as liaison staff.

However, when I reported to the captain he told me the ship had its own radio officers and I was not to go near the wireless room. He then said that as the tug might have to go into a neutral port at some time, it was necessary for me to be registered as one of the merchant seamen.

His proposal was that I should be listed as an assistant cook, that I would be paid £15 a month, given a bottle of beer a day and a bottle of gin each month as stocks were available.

You can imagine therefore that when a signal came for me to take the Telegraphists' exam on the depot ship I was

very reluctant to be forced to reveal that I was no longer acting as a telegraphist and thereby risking the possibility that I might be redrafted.

So not surprisingly I found some reason not to take the exam and I stayed in the Antic for the next two and a half years — on the same advantageous terms!

In consequence I did not draw any Naval pay during that time and neither did I apply to take the Telegraphist exam again.

On my return to Chatham for demobilisation I was viewed with great suspicion by Paymasters and Regulating Officers and was made to apply for a Good Conduct badge and campaign medals before I was allowed to go into the demob procedure.

I was not, however, asked to take the Tels exam and neither was any offer made to rate me on length of service.

It was there that I was told the non-achievement of a substantive rating after over three years was unheard of. — C. Stringer, Hertford.



● PIRATICAL CREW: HM Rescue Tug Antic, O/Tel C. Stringer at left, at war off Sierra Leone.

Big Grampy's POW number was the same as Judy's

I WAS very interested in the story about Judy, the only dog ever to be made a prisoner of war (July issue). I thought she was a brave and clever dog.

It was even more interesting to me because Judy had the same POW number (81) as my great Grampy, who I call Big Grampy. His name was Leslie Francis Henry Newport and he was brave and special, too. He was an RAF medical orderly, acting Sergeant, and he was captured at Singapore and escaped in a sampan boat.

He and two others were in the boat for seven days. They ate raw fish but the only water was sea water which made them poorly.

Then they saw a plane circle above them and it landed in the water and a dinghy picked them up and took them to Sumatra.

He spent two weeks in hospital at Batavia and then they were taken to a secret aerodrome where the Dutch Air Force had their planes. The Javanese people put their washing out as arrows to point out where the planes were.

Unfortunately they were taken prisoner again, and that's when Big Grampy was given his number, 81. He kept the pin that had his number on it.

Everyone at home was told he was missing in action and they thought he was dead until they heard his voice on the radio that the Japanese were using to tell people stories.

He came home in 1945 and got a Mention in Despatches for his work as a medic in the POW camp.

Sadly my Big Grampy died last year and we miss him very much so it was very nice to read your story as it helped us remember him. — Thomas Woods (age 7 1/2), Littlemore, Oxford.

MAY I expand a little upon the story of Judy the dog? Born in Shanghai in February 1936, she was originally owned by a Chinese shopkeeper.

After being ill-treated by some

Japanese sailors she was taken by a little girl, Lee Ming, to an English-run kennels. That September the canteen committee of HMS Gnat (my old ship) announced that the ship's pet should have three qualifications. Because we could do with some female companionship, the first qualification was to be female. Secondly, she would have to be attractive and thirdly she would have to earn her keep.

And so Judy joined the Royal Navy. She had an official ship's book number. An open-topped box containing a blanket was her sleeping quarters. AB Jan Cooper became 'Keeper of the Ship's Dog'.

After some three action-packed years, in June 1939 part of Gnat's ship's company transferred to HMS Grasshopper. Judy went with them.

A very detailed account of her life and times was written under the title 'Judy the War Dog' by Edwin Varley and printed in the book section of *Readers Digest* in July 1988. — R. T. W. Rumsey, Rendcomb, Cirencester.

Rescue reunion

IN April I asked your help in tracing the pilot of a Fleet Air Arm Walrus who shared with me, as CO of a Rescue Motor Launch, in the rescue of the Canadian crew of a Halifax bomber which had ditched in the North Sea in 1944.

As a result, I was able to contact the Walrus pilot and a link was made with the Canadians. We have now enjoyed a reunion — 55 years after our original brief encounter. Thank you on behalf of all concerned for making this possible. — D. M. Mackinton, Bromley, Kent.



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Thereby hangs the tale of a dog ...



TORPOINT is a small town allied to Devonport Dockyard. Some 30 or so years ago we acquired, by Lord knows what means, a small wooden carving of a dog of nondescript appearance. On the base of the carving was a typewritten note to the effect that it was a mascot which belonged to HMS Magpie and had been with the ship since she commissioned in 1943. It was kept in the stores office and was not to be removed!

The dog, which is only about four inches long, was put in a drawer and has recently resurfaced. We have been wondering if anyone who might have served in HMS Magpie has any knowledge of it. I have been told that an "important person" was at one time a member of HMS Magpie's crew. You never know, we might dredge up something interesting. — P. G. Manning, Archivist, Torpoint Council.

The frigate HMS Magpie was commanded by The Duke of Edinburgh from September 1950 to August 1951. We sent the Duke a copy of the photograph shown here — but he has no recollection of it. Nor does the Magpie Association. Can anyone clear up the mystery of this 'salty dog'? — Ed.

Rejected for Thetis

ON MY return to HMS Dolphin after a WT(PO Tel's Course) at the end of March 1938, I was doubly pleased (a) that I had passed the course with excellent marks, and (b) as a Lancastrian that I had been selected to join the draft to Birkenhead to stand by HM submarine Thetis, then under construction at the Cammell Laird shipyard.

Then, at the final muster prior to departure for Birkenhead I was told my name had been replaced by LTel John Hope.

That rejection and the sad loss of 99 crew and shipyard personnel under the command of Lt Cdr G. R. Bolus when Thetis went down in Liverpool Bay on June 1, 1939, caused many personal problems and sadness which have remained for many a long year. — G. Pickup, Cosham, Hants

Letters

Churchill by name

THE LETTER from Cdr J. J. Tall and your response (June issue) stated regarding USS Winston S. Churchill that this was "the first time that the United States Navy has honoured any British politician in this way, or indeed a head of state of any other country."

This statement is incorrect as the US Navy named the Knox-class ocean escort USS Harold E. Holt in honour of the late Prime Minister of Australia.

This vessel was laid down at the Todd shipyard, San Pedro in 1968, launched in 1969 and commissioned on March 26, 1971. She was later reclassified as a frigate. Hope you don't mind the US Navy's assistance in this matter. — R. S. Melman, QMC USN (retd), Honolulu.

Not at all, Mr Melman — but we should point out that the Queen is head of state of Australia, not the Prime Minister. I. Wardle of Mandurah, Western Australia also wrote pointing out that it was Harold Holt who committed Australian forces to Vietnam in support of the US. He only held office for a short time, 1966-67, as he went missing while swimming in Port Phillip Bay near Melbourne, believed taken by sharks. — Ed

WHILST commiserations are due to Cdr J. J. Tall over the omission of reference to his former command, the submarine HMS Churchill, the brief paragraph mentioning an earlier HMS Churchill did not do justice to the association with the name of our wartime Prime Minister.

It is true that the 50 so-called "lease-land" ex-US old destroyers on being commissioned as HM ships were given the names of towns and villages in Britain where there were identical place names on the other side of the Atlantic.

But HMS Churchill was the very first of the 50 and was obviously given that name in recognition of the great man who had negotiated the deal with President Roosevelt in 1940, even before America had entered the war.

In England there are five villages named Churchill, but the one in Somerset became linked to HMS Churchill as the village contained an ancestral home of an earlier generation of the Churchill/Marlborough family. This was recognised as early as 1940 when a message was sent from Churchill, Somerset, to Churchill, Nevada. In addition, during the war HMS Churchill was adopted by the former Wanstead and Woodford Council in London, which was Winston's parliamentary constituency. It was rumoured that the Prime Minister was not exactly enamoured with his name being associated with a somewhat antiquated destroyer, but he did find time on one occasion to visit the ship with words of encouragement for all.

There are still veterans left who are proud to have served in the first warship bearing that illustrious name, which played a useful part in the Battle of the Atlantic. — I. A. Hennell, Goring-by-Sea.

You're alright, Jack!

IN REPLY to LWTR Elton's letter 'Will I be on most hours for least money?' (July issue), while being very aware of the hours put in by the Supply and Secretariat staff in the Royal Navy, I feel that I could not let it pass without a comment from the operational and watch keeping side of the service.

I feel that it is only right to point out to anyone not versed with this side of life the accumulative side-effects of watch keeping on personnel.

Which often encompass stressful and unpleasant working environments ranging from the intense, highly compound charged atmosphere of the operations room to the noisy, hot and potentially dangerous machinery spaces.

From the many conversations I have had on the matter, the general consensus is that Pay 2000 is being introduced as recognition of people and professions within the Service who have had to spend much more time gaining technical knowledge and training in acquiring the skills required for those many technical and operationally diverse ranges of jobs over some other potentially less in-depth ones, as well as the hours and working conditions involved.

As both the Army and RAF have specialist trade pay, I see it as only fair and right that the Senior Service operate such a system in-line with the other two Services and become more like civilian companies in our approach to the varying range of jobs and pay scales for the skills encompassed within them.

While not wanting to berate any branch or individual, and realising that everyone has an important role to play in the running of a modern warship, I find myself unconvinced that a waiter or a secretary in a civilian job would be getting paid the same as a technical engineer or a telecommunications operator/technician.

So why are we in the Navy still doing it as both of the other Services have moved away from this?

While personally unaware of the banding into which the various branches will be placed, I feel that the LWTR has fallen into the trap of believing that he and his branch are the hardest working, most vital

Perhaps during his all-night-in he should take some time to walk around the ship and find out how many of the ship's company are working to keep the ship moving in the right direction, safely, able to fight and communicate. Finally, in response to the MOD spokesman, I think that it is fair to say that he will find most members of the Royal Navy to be "hard working, bright, intelligent and dedicated" — regardless of which branch they come from. — LRO(G) P. Spurling, COMMCEN Plymouth.

I'M SORRY, but I thought the Writer branch within the Royal Navy was already 'working to rule'. What does the sign say on the UPO door? — 'Closed PM — Emergencies Only'. Their excuse for this is so that they can process paperwork raised during the forenoon.

As for long hours at sea and ashore, I almost fell off my chair laughing!

Having recently come from sea I can speak from experience when I say that after 1600 it can take an age before you can find the duty writer, let alone one that works late because he/she wants to — and that's at sea.

Then, once alongside, at home or abroad, they're always near the front of the queue when watch-keepers leave is piped.

I feel sorry for LWTR Elton because of the flak he is bound to receive with reference to his stupid comments. He can however take solace that if he is victimised by others because of his letter, he can always seek out a Regulator to help him — day or night.

One last thing. If LWTR Elton and his workmates are thinking of work to rule, I suggest he reads up on the rules and regulations regarding mutiny. Your friendly local Sheriff will always be available to discuss the implications of such an attitude. — MAA C. D. Beetlestone, MARCOMMAN-



Belfast in the news

FOLLOWING up on the recent interest in HMS Belfast, I enclose a copy of the German wartime magazine *Die Kriegsmarine*. The cover gives an artist's impression of the crippled HMS Belfast approaching the Forth Bridge on her way to Rosyth dockyard.

The date of the magazine is December 20, 1939 and the German propaganda machine had evidently decided to exploit the British Admiralty's press release which stated that the Belfast had been damaged in the Firth of Forth on November 21 by torpedo or mine. — E. Simpson, Dunfermline.

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GRACE (24) – who advertised for a penfriend in Box 9 of May issue. Please contact the Navy News office.

DEBS, 34, separated, G.S.O.H., needs a friend 30/40ish. **BOX SEP 1**

3 FUN LOVING girls all 21 with G.S.O.H. for fun, possible romance. **BOX SEP 2**

WELSH DIVORCEE, 29, seeks penfriends, correspondence/friendship any age. **BOX SEP 3**

SHIRLEY, 32, nurse, seeks sailor/officer penfriends, friendship possible romance. **BOX SEP 4**

SINGLE, INDEPENDENT, stubborn, feisty female, age 30, seeks warm, strong soulmate, friendship/romance. **BOX SEP 5**

FUN LOVING, 33, Louise, single mum, likes lots of laughs. **BOX SEP 6**

CARLA, 20, Enjoys reading and social activities. Seeks male/female penfriends. **BOX SEP 7**

HELP NEEDED, Helen 5' 5" green eyed blonde seeks penfriends. **BOX SEP 8**

SWEDISH AMERICAN nurse wishes to correspond with marines/sailors with world wide interests. **BOX SEP 9**

DANIE, PRETTY brunette, 44, green eyes, feminine, slim, seeks penpals 40+. **BOX SEP 10**

BECKY, 17, 5' 2" long dark hair, blue eyes. Enjoys clubs and meeting new people. **BOX SEP 11**

SEEKING TONY HMS Nottingham who met Jacqueline in Malta 1996. **BOX SEP 12**

MARILYN, 42, seeks male or female penfriends similar age group. **BOX SEP 13**

GREEN EYES, brown hair, 5' 4" single lady likes swimming, skiing. **BOX SEP 14**

FRIENDLY SINGLE mum, 22, G.S.O.H. seeks penpals, replies to all. **BOX SEP 15**

SINGLE MOTHER of one, 5' 8" brunette age 34, seeks honest and trustworthy male. **BOX SEP 16**

QUALIFIED NURSE 36, seeks single officer, sailors/marines for penfriends. **BOX SEP 17**

LUCIA, 26, Plymouth, tall, slim brunette, full of life nobody to share it with. A.L.A. **BOX SEP 18**

MIDLANDS GIRL 29, loves formula one and pubs. Dark hair, blue/grey eyes, loves to travel. **BOX SEP 19**

RACHEL, 30, cuddly red head, WLTm cuddly, genuine sailor/SR 30-45 for friendship/romance. **BOX SEP 20**

JOANNE, 24, likes sport, G.S.O.H. seeks penpal, photo appreciated. **BOX SEP 21**

BLUE EYES, fair hair, 17, seeks someone sincere for friendship/romance. **BOX SEP 22**

LOVELY LINDSEY, 28, seeks naval penfriend, write now, A.L.A. **BOX SEP 23**

SINGLE FEMALE chef, 30, G.S.O.H., animal lover seeks naval penfriend. **BOX SEP 24**

JILL, 37, would like to join navy penfriends for fun and friendship, maybe more. **BOX SEP 25**

TALL BLONDE lady, young 50, sociable, independent, professional. Seeks tall personable N/S officer 45/55 A.L.A. **BOX SEP 26**

DIANA, 31, 5' 3", brown hair, green eyes WLTHF male penfriends. **BOX SEP 27**

DEBBIE, 31, redhead, blue eyes, G.S.O.H., fun loving personality. Seeks friendship/relationship. Photo appreciated. **BOX SEP 28**

PERSONAL

EX-DIVER COLIN BAKER (Babsy) from Clacton. Surprise 40th Birthday party in Cornwall on 18th September 1999. All old friends welcome. For details contact Dave & Wendy on 01209 842715

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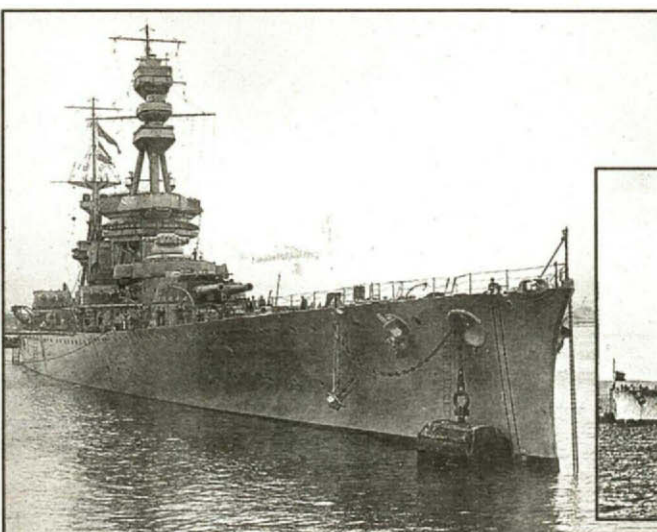
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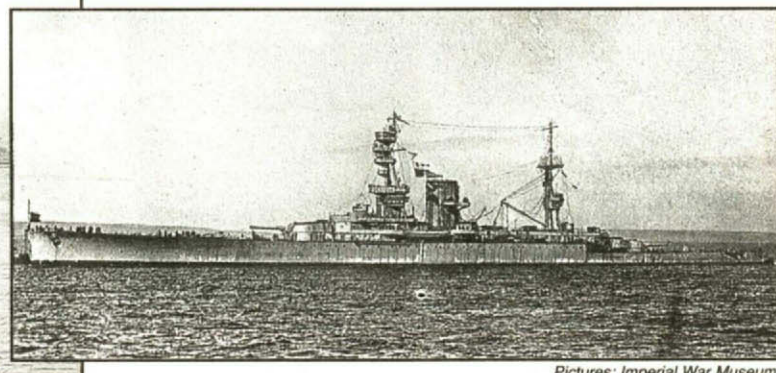
Navy News reserves the right to make any amendments which it considers necessary or to edit copy which is in excess of the number of words paid for.

Please note: We can take no responsibility for the nature or source of the replies received.

The truth about that Vanguard armament



THESE World War I battlecruisers HM ships *Glorious* (left) and *Courageous* bequeathed their guns to Britain's last battleship, HMS Vanguard. Or did they? . . .



Pictures: Imperial War Museum

Historical misfire over the big guns

THE QUESTION that readers were challenged to answer in our July Picture Puzzle competition was far trickier than it appeared – in fact, far trickier than even we had thought.

Accepting statements contained in various histories, we showed a photograph of Britain's last battleship, HMS Vanguard, and asked readers to identify her and to name the previous 'owners' of her eight 15in guns.

Popular mythology asserts that Vanguard's guns were originally fitted in the hybrid battlecruisers HM ships *Courageous* and *Glorious*. The ships were designed as shallow-draught vessels for possible use to support a World War I landing on the Baltic coast, and each had only four 15in guns in two turrets as a weight-saving measure.

After the war it was decided to convert them as aircraft carriers, and their big guns and turrets were removed.

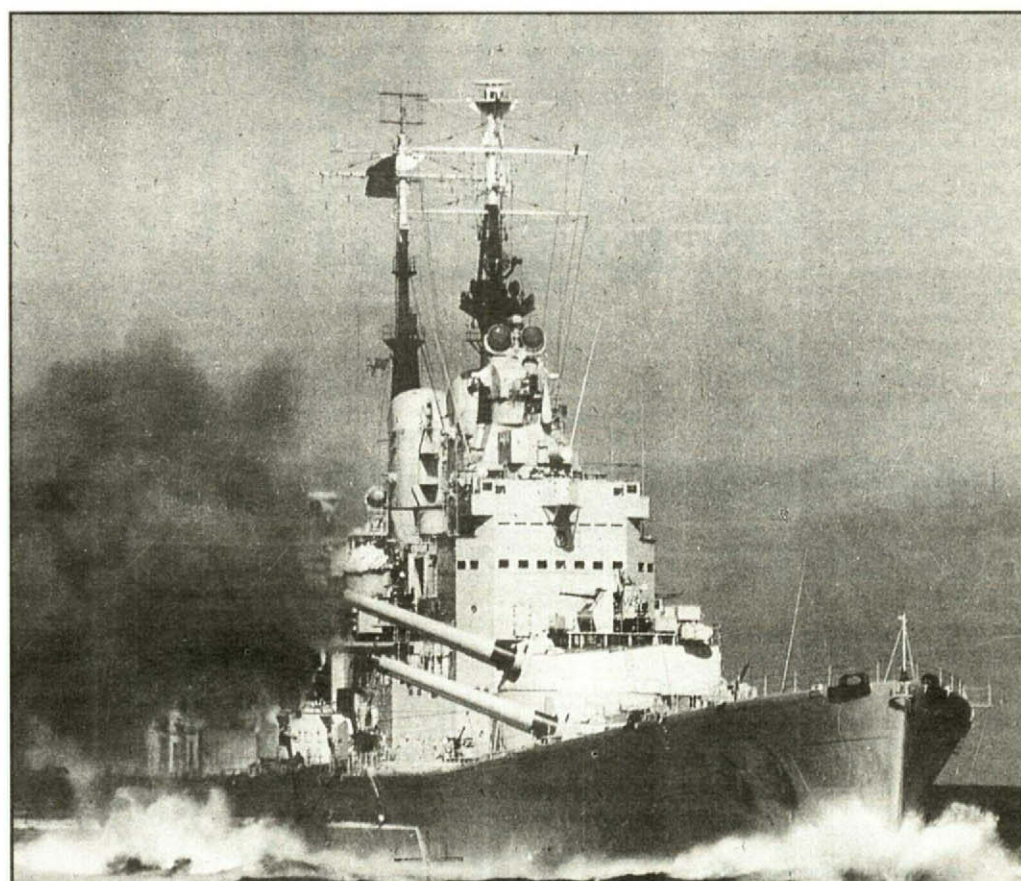
While the turrets from the two ships did end up in Vanguard, she in fact received only one of the guns – and that had reached her via HMS Warspite.

We were made aware of that little-known fact thanks to Lt Cdr Arnold Hague RNR (ret'd), who spotted our July competition item. He wrote to us anticipating that we were about to make "a considerable error in the answer required". We were. So, too, were the vast majority the 441 readers who entered the competition.

The 15in Gun Log to which Lt Cdr Hague directed us was formerly kept at Priddy's Hard and now resides in Hampshire County Archives. The remarkable tome contains hand-written records of the ins and outs of all the Navy's 170-odd, 15in guns from 1912.

It shows clearly that, apart from the Warspite gun, Vanguard's main armament had been in HMS *Queen Elizabeth* (two), *Ramillies* (two – and one of those had before been in *Royal Sovereign*), and one each from *Royal Sovereign*, *Resolution* and the monitor *Erebus* (whose gun had also previously been in *Royal Sovereign*).

The carefully kept log makes it obvious that when it came to the very expensive guns, economy was highly important. They were removed when they needed refurbishment, replaced with others that in all likelihood had been taken from other ships, and eventually re-installed in yet other vessels.



● HMS Vanguard firing her main armament in 1956. Her 15in guns, often stated to have been from *Glorious* and *Courageous*, were in fact from a variety of sources.

It was a clever and cost-cutting game of musical guns – and without the log it would have been difficult to tell where any of them had been.

So what, in fact happened to the *Courageous* and *Glorious* guns which did not reach Vanguard?

All *Courageous*'s 15in guns were at one time or another used by

Warspite. Another two, which later went to HMS *Malaya* and the monitor HMS *Roberts*, ended their days with those ships.

Three of *Glorious*'s big guns were also used in Warspite. Two were eventually scrapped; the other had been passed on to HMS *Renown* in 1941. A fourth was installed in HMS *Malaya* in 1944

and was scrapped in 1948.

Curiously, there is reference to a fifth gun for *Glorious*, though she was equipped with only four. It seems it may never have reached the ship. In 1928 it was given to HMS *Barham* and was lost with her when she was sunk in the Mediterranean.

Of our competition entrants, 352 said Vanguard's guns had come from the battlecruisers. As that is the answer we expected, *Navy News* has chosen at random one of those as a winner – Mr Robert Simpson of Ashford, Kent who receives £30. But 19 entrants referred only to turrets or mountings, and therefore were not wrong, so one of them – Mr Robert McKerron of Abbeymead in Gloucestershire receives another £30 prize.

And although Lt Cdr Hague did not, strictly speaking, enter the competition we have made a special award of £30 to him – as he was the only one who gave the absolutely correct, if unexpected, answer.



Sailors cleaning 15in guns in a battleship. During its lifetime each weapon was likely to be used in two or even three different warships.

Triumph and tragedy

Sailors mourn the end of Navy field gun competition

IT WAS THE TOUGHEST sport in the world but when the Royal Navy Field Gun competition ran for the last time the strongest of men were choking back tears.

With the final Royal Tournament at Earl's Court the Service was saying farewell to a proud tradition which dates back for 100 years.

In 1899 sailors from HMS Powerful and HMS Terrible heaved their guns into battle to save the besieged town of Ladysmith during the Boer War.

Their struggle was a matter of life and death for the town and their courage and tenacity captured the public's imagination, with huge crowds turning out to welcome the heroes home.

By 1913 their action had inspired a sport which has enthralled generations of spectators at the Royal Tournament, and hundreds of former field gunners made the pilgrimage to Earl's Court to see the last ever crews in action.

For two weeks men from Devonport, Portsmouth and the Fleet Air Arm battled for the final honours.

Devonport Field Gun officer Lt Jamie Summers told *Navy News*: "We knew at the beginning of the season that this was almost certainly going to be the last run and we were completely determined to go out on a winning note."

"We had a lot of experience and had run some fantastic times in training and it was keeping that momentum going at the Royal Tournament that counted."

By Dominic Blake

After months of arduous drilling under First Trainer CPO Neal Frame and CPO PT Cass Clay, Devonport set a blistering pace throughout the competition.

They shattered the previous world record with a run of 2 minutes 40.43 seconds to earn the fastest-time cup.

Devonport also had the lowest aggregate time with a total of 44 minutes 33.18 seconds, compared with the FAA in second with 46.08.29 and Portsmouth on 49.02.05.

The trophy for the fewest penalty points was won by the Fleet Air Arm.

And in the B crew section, the Fleet Air Arm came top with 11 points, with Devonport on 8 and Portsmouth 7. Devonport's B crew had the fastest run with 2.56.50 and the fastest aggregate B crew time was Portsmouth with 19.45.15.

Devonport 'A' were only bettered twice during the tournament and picked up 29 of the maximum 32 points, giving them the Inter-Port Challenge Cup and overall victory, with the FAA on 23 and Portsmouth on 18.

But with success came inevitable sorrow at the loss of



● **AERIAL COMBAT:** Portsmouth and the Fleet Air Arm in the last ever field gun run. The competition has come to an end with the announcement that the Royal Tournament is to be replaced with an open-air military pageant. Picture: Press Association

their beloved sport. Lt Summers said: "There was tremendous support from the crowd and a lot of emotion, especially on the final night."

"We achieved what we wanted to this year and you could ask no more of our crew than to go out on this high note, but it is tinged with sadness that such a wonderful sport has come to an end."

All three field gun teams returned home to rapturous welcomes, with the liveliest reserved for the victors.

Lt Summers said: "The reception from the crowd at Devonport was absolutely amazing. It was raining but massive crowds turned out, and as we displayed the silverware, the pride and passion of the people of Plymouth was overwhelming."

Lt Summers is one of six full-time field gun officers and trainers who must decommission their units and send the 12-pounder guns on their final journey to Naval museums.

He said: "There is a very mixed set of emotions, pride, honour and a lot of sadness."

"So many of our people have taken part in field gun and it is such a large part of your life while you are involved. You eat and sleep field gun and you give up so much in terms of your families during the season. It's been a massive part of people's lives."

Defence Secretary George Robertson said: "The field gun competition has been a tremendous spectacle and it is fitting that the final run should take place 100 years on from the relief of Ladysmith."

Author looks back at field gun's history

A FASCINATING history of the field gun competition has been written by author Tony Bridgeland.

The book tells the story of the bloody battles which led up to the siege of Ladysmith, how the Navy guns went on to play an increasingly vital role in the Boer War, and takes the reader right through the history of the Royal Tournament competition.

Copies can be ordered for £7 plus £1.50 postage and packing by sending a cheque to PO Box 10, Rye, TN31 3ZG.



The particular contribution made by the Field Gun Associations of Portsmouth, Devonport and the Fleet Air Arm, and that of the Chatham Association up to 1960, will be remembered with great pride by generations of field gunners and by all those who have simply watched the crews in action and recognised that this has truly been the world's toughest competition."

□ *Newsview* - page 18.



● **PRINCESS ANNE** presents the Inter-Command Cup to the 1999 champions Devonport. Their record-breaking run of 2 minutes 40.43 seconds will stand forever. Picture: PO Bernie Pettersen



● **PRIDE:** All three field gun teams received a rapturous welcome on their return from the Royal Tournament, but the biggest crowds braved a rainy day in Plymouth to cheer the 1999 winners.

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People in the News



High spirits in HMS Quorn



HMS QUORN has won the Soberton Trophy for her outstanding contribution to fishery protection. The trophy is awarded annually to the best Hunt Class minesweeper and it was presented to Lt Cdr Martin Jones by Admiral Sir Jock Slater, a former commanding officer of HMS Soberton. The Soberton Trophy is sponsored by the Royal Naval Association and Pusser's Rum, and in keeping with Naval tradition "Up Spirits" was piped!

Diver passes out after sixty years

DIVERS at Horsea Island came up trumps when a veteran of World War II asked for their help.

Tommy Elliott (81) was trained at Horsea Island and joined a Navy Expeditionary Force which mined the Rhine to slow the German advance.

Then, as a diver 2nd class, he was sent to Scotland in 1941 where he lost a leg while recovering a torpedo. Tommy was invalided from the Service in 1942 and his original diving certificate was lost years later.

But he was thrilled with the response he got when he asked staff at the modern-day Defence Diving School if they could help with a replacement certificate.

The Commanding Officer of the Tri-Service school, Royal Engineer Lt Col Robbie Hall, invited Tommy to spend a day at Horsea Island and presented him with a

framed copy of the original certificate.

Tommy said: "It's absolutely wonderful after all these years to find my certificate. It takes me back to those heady days."

"It has been a marvellous experience to see the modern training facilities at Horsea Island. We never had anything like this!"



● Tommy Elliott is presented with a copy of his diving certificate by Lt Col Robbie Hall. They are pictured with his son-in-law, Mr Kerry Bunt and Diver 1st Class Billy Bounds.

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Toothwright retires

HMS RALEIGH'S dentist Surg Cdr Michael Roberts has retired from the Navy after a fulfilling career spanning 32 years.

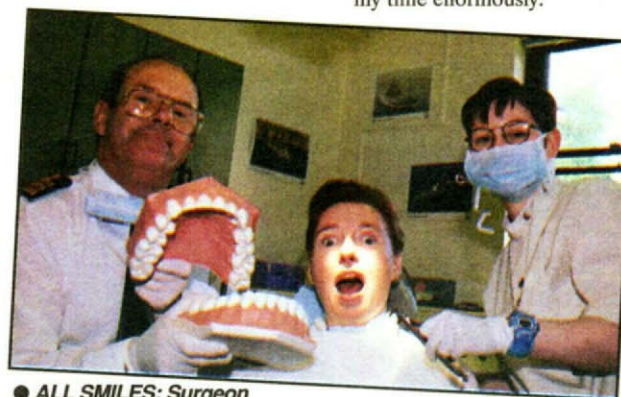
Mike joined the RN in 1967 after qualifying at Guy's Hospital, London, and has had sea drafts with HMS Fearless and HMS Illustrious and two foreign postings, one to Bahrain and one to Hong Kong.

As a fit young man he volunteered for Service with the Royal Marines, gained the coveted Green Beret in 1977 and spent nine years tending to their teeth.

HMS Raleigh has 2,000 people in the establishment and with up to

100 new entrants arriving every week, many in need of extensive treatment, it has been an extremely busy posting.

Mike, who is retiring to South Devon, said: "It has been a privilege to serve and I have enjoyed my time enormously."



● ALL SMILES: Surgeon Cdr Mike Roberts (left) with Lt Barbara Mann in the hot seat and WDSA Jolene Matin at the dentists in HMS Raleigh.

One for the archive

EX-NAVY communicator Richard Manning brought back a very old memory for HMS Cardiff during the ship's visit to her namesake city.

Mr Manning's great uncle served on the old HMS Cardiff and he visited her modern-day counterpart to present portraits of Cardiff's band taken in Italy in 1922. In return, the ship gave him a framed photo of the current Destroyer and a guided tour.



● THANKS for the memory: Lt Cdr Andy Johnson, XO of HMS Cardiff, with ex-RN communicator Mr Richard Manning.

People in the News



● **INDUSTRIOUS:** Mike Hines

He's got the Lott!

THE MOST industrious student on the latest Regulating Petty Officer's Professional Course was LREG Mike Hines.

Mike, who is part of the Naval element at HQ Allied Forces Northwest Europe at High Wycombe, earned himself a Herbert Lott award with his efforts.

Although the NATO HQ is due to close in March, the small RN contingent there has been kept very busy, with five of the team deployed in Kosovo and Albania.

Their tasks include help with civilian administration in Albania by CPO Ron Stewart, liaison with aid agencies in Kosovo by Lt Cdr Jerry Edmonds and press liaison in Macedonia by Lt Cdr Colin Stone.



● **RECORD-BREAKER?** Warrant Officer Colyer.

Is this a record?

AFTER 22 years in the Royal Navy most people are happy to hang up their hat.

But not Warrant Officer Tony Colyer. After serving in the RN from 1957 to 1979 he emigrated and has put in another 20 years with the Royal New Zealand Navy, clocking up a total of 42 years. Is this a record?

To mark the occasion he was presented with a certificate of recognition by his CO, Capt D Ledson RNZN.

President presents the medals

THE PRESIDENT of Guatemala graciously consented to present three Long Service and Good Conduct medals during HMS Northumberland's visit to his country (see page 35).

President Aruz is pictured making the award to PO Ian Williams.



Richard's success on a plate

NAVY PHOTOGRAPHER Richard Harvey has been voted 'student of the year' after an imagery analysis course at RAF Chicksands.

It is the first time for 15 years that the title has been won by the RN and PO Harvey was presented with a silver plate in recognition of his achievements.

The course was at the Joint School of Photographic Interpretations and Richard (38) is now one of only nine Naval analysts amongst the 150 who work at the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre (JARIC) at RAF Bampton.

Solemn duty for HMS Glasgow

HMS GLASGOW had a solemn duty to perform after sailing from Sydney harbour during her recent visit to Australia.

The destroyer had been contacted by the Royal Naval and Royal Marines associations of New South Wales and asked to commit the ashes of two World War II veterans to the deep.

Shetland hosts Georgian VIP

THE HEAD of Georgia's Border Guards visited HMS Shetland to learn more about fishery protection.

Major General Cheikdze was taking part in an exchange programme and his host was Commander Fishery Protection, Cdr Martin Butcher.

After leaving Sydney harbour in pouring rain, the sky cleared and a Service with the Ship's Company was held on deck by Third Destroyer Squadron Chaplain, the Rev Nicholas Pneumaticos.

The ship was fortunate to have a detachment of Royal Marines on board and as the remains of TY/SGT Benjamin Harrington RM and Royal Navy Commando MA David Bedford were laid to rest, the last post was sounded by Sgt Andrew Travis.



● **COMMITTAL:** The moving Service on board HMS Glasgow.

Picture by LA(PHOT) Paul Smith

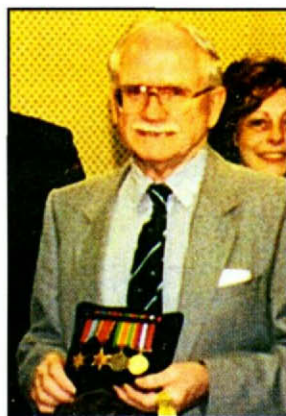
Son ensures that Dad is decorated

AFTER returning from India at the end of WWII, CPO Thomas Grubb was 'far too busy trying to live' to claim the medals he was entitled to.

But over fifty years on, the pensioner from East Kilbride has been presented with the long-overdue honours after some diligent research by his son Brendan.

Brendan secretly claimed the medals on his father's behalf and arranged for them to be presentation by Clyde Naval Base Director Commodore Richard Lord, as a surprise on his dad's 77th birthday.

● **AT LAST:** Ex-CPO Thomas Grubb receives his medals.



● As Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson visited Pembroke House, the Royal Navy Benevolent Trust's residential home in Gillingham, Kent, which is undergoing improvements costing £2.4 million. Mr Robertson is pictured here with 88-year-old Harold Murby after the announcement that £500,000 will be donated towards the project by Greenwich Hospital.

Picture: Allan Easterbrook, RNA.

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appropriate electoral registration officer (the form tells you how). You will then be able to vote at all Parliamentary, European Parliamentary and local government elections.

Wives and husbands of Regular members of HM Forces can also register as service voters or, if they prefer, register each year as civilian voters (so long as they are living in the UK).

NO VOTE  NO VOICE.

Rendezvous at sea for Commanding couple

A HUSBAND and wife who both command Royal Navy vessels had a unique opportunity to rendezvous at sea.

Lt Cdr Guy Robinson, CO of HMS Guernsey, met his wife Lt Melanie Robinson, CO of HMS Express, when she was returning to Milford Haven after a summer deployment to the Republic of Ireland.



Queen Mum's anniversary

LAST month saw the Queen Mother's 99th birthday – and also the 60th anniversary of her role as Commandant-in-Chief WRNS, now for Women in the Royal Navy.

This photograph from our files (below) shows Chief Regulating Wren Victoria Williams, BEM being presented to Her Majesty at HMS Collingwood in 1968.

On that occasion, Queen Elizabeth presented the Navy school of electrical engineering with a battle ensign worn by the battleship HMS Collingwood at Jutland in 1916 – when her husband-to-be Prince Albert was serving in 'A' turret. The ensign was given to her as a wedding present by Lt, later Admiral Campbell Tait.



New guidelines issued in drive for equality

TO PROMOTE the Naval Service's equal opportunities policy commanding officers are being told that they should "feel free" to introduce their own initiatives in consultation with their type commander and the Director Naval Service Conditions.

The advice is given in the Navy's equal opportunities policy statement published in a new RN Defence Council Instruction (125/99).

It lays down that there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any person on grounds of sex, race, ethnic origin, religion or marriage, and pledges:

"All serving personnel shall have equal opportunity for

employment and advancement within the Naval Service on the basis of their ability, performance and aptitude for work. All personnel shall have the right to work in an environment free from intimidation, harassment or abuse."

Task force sets sail

AS NAVY NEWS went to press more than 5,000 RN personnel were sailing from Britain for Exercise Argonaut in the Mediterranean (P26 August issue.)

Commodore Niall Kilgour, Commander of the new Amphibious Ready Group led by HMS Fearless and HMS Ocean, said: "Exercise Argonaut 99 will give us an excellent opportunity to test the Amphibious Ready Group concept to the full."

Baroness Symons is the MOD's first woman minister

THE MINISTRY of Defence has its first ever woman minister with the appointment of Baroness Symons as Minister of State for Defence Procurement.

Baroness Symons has moved on promotion from the Foreign Office where she has been Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State since 1997 and John Spellar is promoted to Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence to become the new Minister of State for the Armed Forces.

The new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State is Peter Kilfoyle, who moves from the Cabinet Office, where he has been Parliamentary Secretary since 1997.

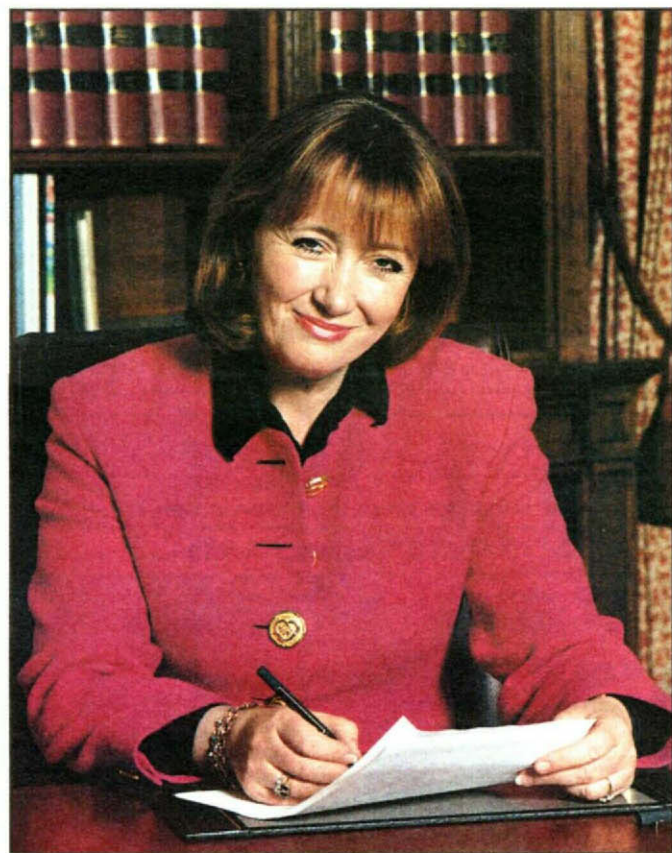
Defence Secretary George Robertson, who is soon to become NATO Secretary General, said: "I am delighted to welcome my new Ministerial colleagues to the Ministry of Defence."

"We have an excellent team in place to tackle the many challenges ahead; completing the task of implementing our Strategic

Defence Review and building modern, flexible and effective Armed Forces to serve Britain in the 21st Century."

Baroness Symons has had a long career in the Civil Service and recent posts have included Deputy General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation and General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants.

The new appointment means that the Baroness will be the Government's main defence spokesperson in the Lords.



● **NEW WOMAN:** Baroness Symons, who has been appointed Minister of State for Defence Procurement.

Air station on stand-by as eclipse crowds gathered

EMERGENCY Services in Cornwall were on a state of high alert as thousands of visitors flocked to the County for last month's solar eclipse.

And a vital part of the contingency planning by civilian authorities and emergency services involved staff at the Royal Navy Air Station at Culdrose and the fleet of helicopters based there.

The station was on stand-by to provide air transport in the event of a major incident, especially if roads became blocked by heavy traffic. As a precautionary measure police requested that two Sea King heli-

copters be despatched to Plymouth, but the biggest problem on the day turned out to be cloudy weather and their services, thankfully, were not required.

□ HMS Victory was commandeered by a newspaper in Portsmouth which was looking for an impressive backdrop to photograph the event.

The News has produced 15 by 10-inch prints of Nelson's flagship with the eclipse visible in the darkened sky above her rigging. Copies of the print, by Ian Hargreaves, are on sale at £15. To order, telephone the newspaper on 01705 664488.



● **VICTORY:** Navy photographer Dave Hunt took this superb shot of the partial eclipse seen over HMS Victory inside Portsmouth Naval Base.



● **ECLIPSE:** Culdrose Writers Claire Wiggins, Denise Law and Darren Mellor wait for a gap in the cloudy Cornwall skies for the chance to see the total eclipse of the sun. Picture: CPO Bernie Petterson

Navy hosts careers convention

THE ROYAL Navy is to host a major careers forum in November.

The Armed Forces Careers Convention will be staged at HMS Collingwood, the Navy's School of Communications and Weapon Engineering in Fareham.

Planned speakers include both the Defence Secretary and Education and Employment Secretary.

The convention gives the three Services a chance to show careers advisers the opportunities available to recruits in terms of work and training.

Some 270 delegates will be selected from the total application list, and they will attend a programme of talks and visits, hearing the views of young Servicemen and women on training and their work.

The convention is on Thursday and Friday, November 11 and 12. Further information is available on the Internet at:

www.royal-navy.mod.uk/afcc

Hull of war grave submarine found to be damaged

Divers are warned off wreck

DIVERS have been warned by the Ministry of Defence that they risk prosecution if they continue to disturb the wreck of one of Britain's first submarines which sank off Plymouth in 1914.

Warnings that the submarine A7, which went down seven months before war broke out, has been raided and damaged by souvenir hunters was given by a local diving instructor and former Royal

Navy man Peter Washburn.

A7 took 11 men to their deaths when she failed to surface during an exercise with surface ships. She was fitted with experimental hydroplanes, and it is believed that lack of stability may have caused her to sink into the mud in Whitsand Bay. All efforts to free her failed.

A Navy spokesman said A7 had the status of a war grave and anyone caught trying to enter her or damage her would be prosecuted under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986.

He said people who did such things were latter-day grave robbers, and the MOD had alerted the Coastguard Agency to the problem.

The spokesman said that the problem of disturbance to war-grave vessels was growing due to improved technology that allowed divers to descend to greater depths.

QARNNS ball

TICKETS are available for the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service centenary charity ball.

More details about the event, to be held at the New Continental Hotel in Plymouth, on October 1, can be obtained from LNN Lloyd-West (01752 792987) or LNN Fraser-Smith (01752 792175).

Tickets cost £25 each, and include a three-course dinner and entertainment.

Great escape is recalled

THE GREAT escape by HMS Amethyst from the Yangtze River has been commemorated by some of her ship's company.

Some 30 veterans of the frigate mustered at the Portishead town flagstaff, where a thanksgiving and remembrance service was held.

Sea cadets from Weston-super-Mare provided an honour guard, flanked by Army and RAF cadets. Also there were veterans of



● Trial boat – the experimental hydroplanes which were fitted to the conning tower of A7.

Picture: RN Submarine Museum.

Association opens up membership

A NAVAL association has widened its membership in order to keep people in touch.

The Association of Royal Navy Officers has decided to confer membership free of charge on the widow or widower of any RN officer who has died while serving.

This includes the widow or widower of commissioned officers of the RN, RM, QARNNS, the former WRNS and their

reserves, and is retrospective for death while still a serving officer at the time.

Benefits of ARNO membership include social gatherings and holidays, trade advantages and a yearbook which notes relevant issues.

Membership details are available from ARNO Secretary Lt Cdr Mike Coombes, 70, Porchester Terrace, London W2 3TP, tel 0171 402 5231, fax 0171 402 5533, e-mail ARNO@eurosurf.com

■ The Royal British Legion's Pensions Department says there are still thousands of people entitled to a war pension who do not realise that they qualify.

Such pensions are not restricted to wartime or to injuries such as gunshot wounds, and there are hundreds of medical conditions for which they can be awarded.

The RBL Pensions Department is at 48, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY, tel 0171 973 7235/7331/7257.



● Lt John Barker.

Top-flight teams win awards

THREE aviation awards have been presented to teams which have shone in their particular fields.

The 1998 Sopwith Pup Trophy for the highest level of operational capability went to HMS Sheffield, whose Mk 8 Lynx scored well in work-up then made an exceptional contribution to the frigate's West Indies deployment, including hurricane relief work.

The award was accepted by Flight Commander Lt John Barker.

CPO Mick Taylor accepted the 1998 Rolls-Royce Efficiency Trophy on behalf of HMS Manchester Flight.

The unit achieved the best overall standards of engineering efficiency and effectiveness during a busy year with NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic.

The Rascal Orange Crop Trophy for the unit that makes the most significant contribution to the defence electronic warfare database went to HMS Newcastle, and was accepted by the destroyer's Flight Commander, Lt John Bowers.



● CPOA(L) Mick Taylor.



● Lt John Bowers.

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Royal visitor marks harbour anniversary

THE CREATION of a safe anchorage 150 years ago has been commemorated by a royal visit to Portland.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Dorset by helicopter, and was met by a 21-gun salute fired by Type 23 frigate HMS Sutherland.

The ship was anchored in Portland Harbour as royal guardship for the day.

One of the Duke's official duties was to unveil a plaque to mark the anniversary of Portland's breakwater.

On July 25, 1849, Prince Albert the Prince Consort laid the ceremonial foundation stone of the project - although by that stage convict navvies were getting through hundreds of tons of stone a day.

It is estimated that some six million tons of stone went into the breakwater, its foundations and the fortifications which protected it.

With its completion, and that of other harbour work, shipping was protected from south-easterly gales - a boon to the Navy, which had a strong presence in the area.

Portland was host to units of the Victorian Channel Fleet, and in more recent times was host to Flag Officer Sea Training, who transferred to Devonport in 1995.



● Special observer - the Duke of Edinburgh watches a sail-past of Britannia Royal Naval College boats. Prince Philip attended Lord High Admiral's Divisions and the reunion of his entry into the college 60 years ago. He also planted a hop hornbeam tree in the Royal Plot.

In brief

OVER 60 Defence personnel died in road accidents last year – 36 per cent of all Service deaths – and 78 were invalided out of the Services as a result of road accident injuries.

The MOD recognises the seriousness of the problem and has set up an annual award to promote road safety and driving standards.

The award has been running for a year and RAF Bruggen has just been announced as the first winner. More information about the award appears in General DCI 210/99.

● Motorcycle safety - P31

FIVE FAMILY tickets for Chessington World of Adventure are on their way to Miss D. Perks of Bristol, Mrs H. Francis of Hampshire, Mrs D. Spencer of Hampshire, Mrs A. Smith of West Sussex and Mrs L. Peaurt of Kent, who are the winners of the competition in August's Navy News.

WWII veteran and Navy News reader Terry Thorne has discovered that the names of 120 British Servicemen are included on a memorial to the battle of Okinawa.

Although many people associate the battle for Okinawa with the Americans, a task force from the British Pacific Fleet suffered heavy casualties protecting the left flank of the US Expeditionary Force.

The names of the British Servicemen who died are recorded on The Cornerstone of Peace, a Japanese memorial to all who fell in the battle.

BRITISH war veterans will be visiting the Croatian island of Vis this month to dedicate a memorial to comrades lost in the Yugoslav campaign of 1943/45.

The ceremony will include veterans of all three services, diplomatic staff and British Forces based in Split including those in RFA Fort Grange.

SSAFA Forces Help are holding their annual charity brew-up from September 20 to 26. If you want to join in call 0171 463 9300.

And the Fleet Air Arm's annual charity raffle is also underway. For tickets, write to the FAA Officers Association, 4 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4JU.

'Smart procurement' team for Yeovilton

A TOP FLIGHT team of aviation experts has been formed at RNAS Yeovilton to ensure the highest levels of efficiency in all military helicopter projects.

They have moved to the Defence Helicopter Support Authority as part of the MOD's new 'smart procurement' initiative which should deliver better equipment to the Armed Forces in less time and with less cost.

Every major project is to have an integrated project team to ensure optimum efficiency from conception to disposal, and it is the heads of each helicopter team that have joined forces at Yeovilton.

Pictured right are Wing Cdr Dave Knight (Puma and Gazelle) Air Commodore Bruce Sobey (Merlin) Major Richard Ravenscroft (Wessex, A109 and Islanders) Capt Nick Marks (Sea King) and Lt Col Mike Tugby (Lynx). Team leaders from the Chinook, Helicopter Engine and Attack Helicopter teams will join them by 2001.



Navy helps to save 1,000 people

FIGURES issued by the Ministry of Defence reveal that Royal Navy search and rescue crews helped to save the lives of more than 1,000 people last year.

The 1999 edition of UK Defence Statistics shows that the Royal Navy and RAF made the rescues in the course of 1,700 SAR missions launched in 1998.

The publication also reveals the phenomenal amount of work conducted on the nation's behalf by the Royal Navy's Fishery

Protection Squadron, which carried out more than 1,800 boardings in the same period.

Defence expenditure for the year was £21.6 billion, with 300,000 people directly employed by the MOD and a further 350,000 depending on defence for their jobs.

The total strength of the regular Armed Forces is now 208,000 and

the 26,000 new recruits attracted last year is the highest figure since 1992.

The number of women in the Armed Forces is 16,100, making up 7.7 per cent of the total, the highest proportion since WWII.

And the proportion of Service personnel recruited from ethnic minority backgrounds also increased to 1.8 per cent, with around 2,200 now serving in the Armed Forces.

UK Defence Statistics is available from The Stationery Office Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT, for £13 plus a handling charge of £2.94. You can also order by telephone on 0870 600 5522.

Website memorial

FALKLANDS WAR veterans have set up a unique memorial to the men who died in the fight to liberate the islands in 1982.

Members of the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA '82) have established a 'Garden of Remembrance' on their internet site, www.sama82.org.uk. The site, which will be duplicated at the

Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel due to open at Pangbourne College on November 18, allows visitors to look up full details of the fallen.

Navy News is sponsoring some of the equipment needed but additional sponsorship and donations can be sent to Capt Rick Jolly, SAMA '82, PO Box 42, Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 2YR.



● Prince Charles is shown the new SAMA '82 website and memorial gardens at a recent reception at Highgrove.

Busy time for Berkeley

UNEXPLODED World War II mines and wayward Belgian trawlers have been helping to ensure a busy time for HMS Berkeley.

After completing basic operational sea training in February the ship was assigned to fishery protection duties off the East coast and made more than 50 boardings.

Five of them revealed significant infringements with the most serious resulting in a £2,800 fine for the Belgian trawler 'Christopher' which was detained and charged for overfishing cod, a protected species. On the last day of their patrol they went to the aid of another Belgian vessel, the Nova Cura, which had

hailed up a live WWII German mine.

Once it had been identified, the ship's clearance divers returned it to the sea bed, attached explosives and detonated it with spectacular results.

After a port visit to Scarborough the ship joined a multi-national flotilla of ten minesweepers in the Baie de Seine, France, where she successfully hunted two practice mines before visiting Brest, Cherbourg and Dublin.

Now that summer leave is over, the ship has redeployed for a seven-week east coast Fishery patrol and is looking forward to visits to Hull and Newcastle, and a trip to Antwerp to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the city's liberation.



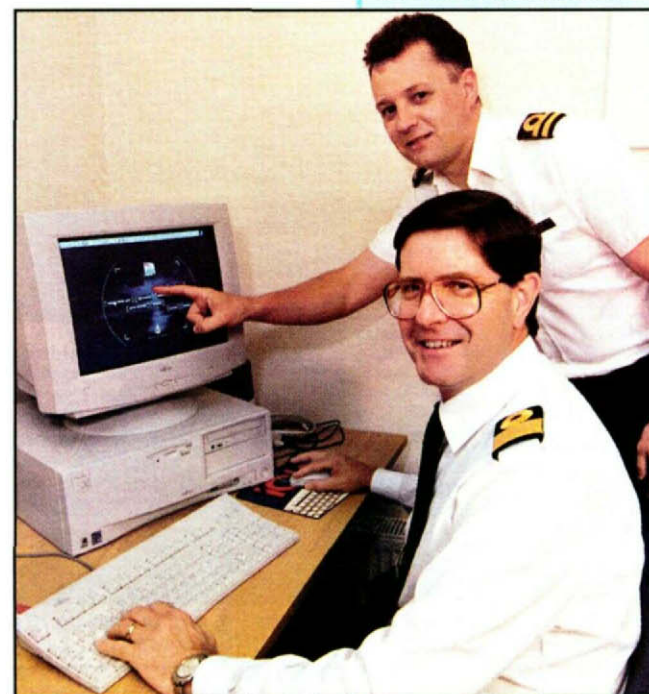
● BUSY: HMS Berkeley. The ship has been taking part in multi-national minewarfare exercises in France and has now redeployed on fishery protection duties off the East coast.

Training facility is excellent!

HMS EXCELLENT is the proud possessor of a superb new interactive learning facility.

The unit, which can be used by all personnel in the establishment at Whale Island, boasts four new computers, internet access, TV and video and a host of educational CD ROM packages.

The facility was officially opened by the Commodore of HMS Excellent, Cdre Arian Munns. He is pictured (below) in the new learning centre with resettlement officer Lt Paul Gainford.



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● Prince Philip at war – sporting a beard, and (above right) his photograph of the bridge of his ship, HMS Wallace.



THESE photographs taken by the future Duke of Edinburgh in a destroyer at the height of World War II have come to light with the help of research by a member of West Lothian branch of the RNA, Shipmate Gordon Clarke. They are part of a fascinating collection of pictures showing scenes in the "happy ship" HMS Wallace viewed through Prince Philip's eyes. Navy News has been given permission to reproduce them by His Royal Highness.

PRINCE PHILIP'S IMAGES OF WAR

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WARTIME photographs taken by the Duke of Edinburgh when he was a destroyer officer have been brought to light by West Lothian branch member, Shipmate Gordon Clarke, during his research into the history of the V & W class ship HMS Wallace.

They are among several taken by Prince Philip when he was First Lieutenant of the destroyer in 1942-43. They show the ship during convoy escort duties and what appears to be a damage control exercise.

The Wallace (1917-45) was adopted by West Lothian during Warship Week in 1942, and based on that connection, Gordon began his research into her life and times three years ago.

"I have received through the good auspices of Navy News many letters from all over the UK from ratings and officers who once served on board the Wallace from as far back as 1939," he told us.

One reply came from as far afield as Australia – as well as a personal response from the Duke of Edinburgh, who also sent Gordon prints of over two dozen photographs he had taken on board.

Prince Philip wrote in his letter: "I joined her (HMS Wallace) on 28 January 1942. The Captain was Lt Cdr E. G. (Teddy) Heywood Lonsdale until February 1943..."

Lt Duncan Carson took over on 18 May 1943. In a letter from Heywood Lonsdale after he left, he wrote 'I didn't know it was possible to enjoy a war as much as I did in Wallace.'

"I was promoted to Lieutenant

on 16 July 1942 and became First Lieutenant in October 1942... I left in November 1943 to do a First Lieutenants course and then to stand by a new Fleet destroyer, HMS Whelp, building on the Tyne.

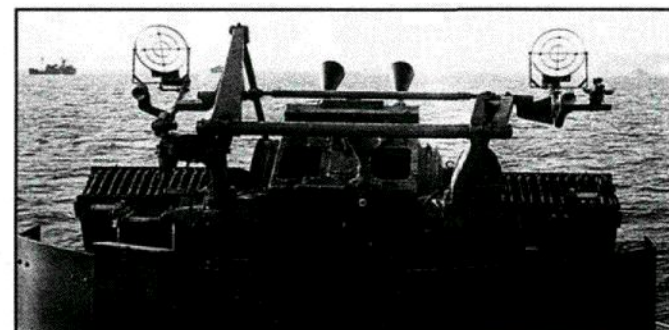
"Before the war, Wallace had been the RNVR ship in Liverpool and most of the crew in 1942 were still from that city.

"The ship was a member of the Rosyth Escort Force and was engaged in escorting very slow convoys between Methil Bay and Sheerness. She was engaged in actions against German E-boats and aircraft, and sometime in early 1943 the ship was involved in a collision with a collier during an air-raid in low visibility and had to go into dock for repairs in Blackwall on the Thames.

"In July 1943 she went to the Mediterranean to take part in Operation 'Husky' supporting the Canadian beachhead in the invasion of Sicily."

Prince Philip quoted many of the ship's statistics, and told Gordon that she was fitted with a VHF/DF set – "known as 'Headache', designed to intercept voice communications between E-boats."

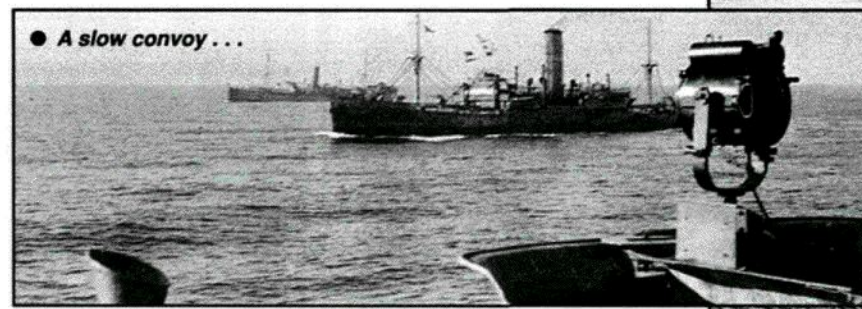
■ All photographs taken by the Duke of Edinburgh and reproduced here remain the sole copyright of His Royal Highness.



● A convoy under escort seen from behind the destroyer's pom-pom AA guns on the quarterdeck



● A photograph from a sequence that appears to show a damage control exercise, and (below) a trawler comes alongside.

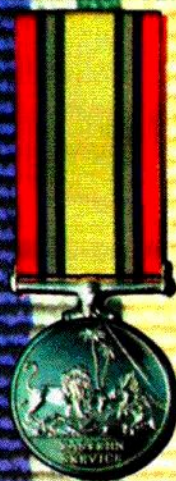


● A slow convoy...



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Statue planned for Enigma code hero

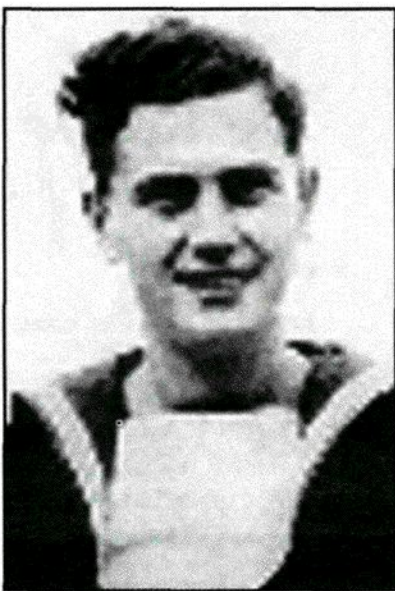
TAMWORTH branch of the RNA and other Naval veterans have joined in a campaign to fund a statue of one of the Royal Navy's greatest, but least known war heroes.

He was AB Colin Grazier, a native of the Staffordshire town who in 1942 lost his life at the age of 22 while recovering from a sinking U-boat coding documents whose capture has been estimated to have shortened the war by at least a year.

The fund-raising drive was instigated by the local newspaper, the *Tamworth Herald*, and the town's Civic Society after they learned that AB Grazier's George Cross was awarded posthumously for an act of which not even his family could be informed for over 30 years.

The codes were seized when the destroyer HMS Petard forced U-559 to the surface in the Mediterranean on the night of October 30. They were of vital importance to Britain's Enigma codebreakers at the top-secret intelligence centre at Bletchley Park.

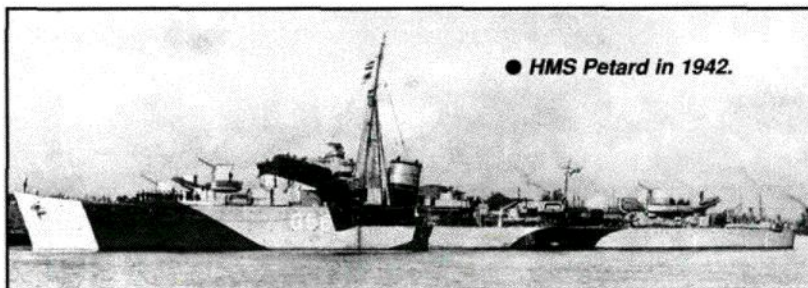
AB Grazier, Lt Antony Fasson and Naafi canteen assistant Tommy Brown swam naked to the U-boat, abandoned on the surface and sinking. As they recovered the information, the submarine slipped beneath the waves, taking with her Lt Fasson and Colin Grazier. Brown was rescued but, still a teenager, died two years later while attempting to save his sister from a house fire.



● AB Colin Grazier – the true importance of his sacrifice was a secret for decades.

All three were awarded the GC, but because it was imperative that the enemy did not know of the coding seizure, not even those closest to the three men could be told of the magnitude of their achievement.

Robert Harris, author of the best-selling book *Enigma*, is backing the campaign. He said of Grazier: "His action enabled us to win the Battle of



● HMS Petard in 1942.

the Atlantic and change the whole course of the war. Without his bravery we wouldn't have been able to break the Enigma code and D-Day may never have happened."

And Naval historian Ralph Erskine, in an official history, wrote: "Few acts of courage by three individuals can ever have had so far-reaching consequences."

Also involved in the memorial campaign are the 30 members of the HMS Petard Association and Olive Grazier, Colin's widow who married him just two days before he left for the last time in the Petard. "We should have been on honeymoon when Colin set sail in the Petard," she said. "It was so sad that he died like he did. He went down heroically. He was a wonderful man who always looked after others."

Deputy Editor of the *Tamworth Herald*, Phil Shanahan, told *Navy News*:

"The appeal for a permanent memorial for Colin Grazier has captured the hearts of our readers, and so far we

have around £4,000 pledged. However, we need more to provide a quality statue which will be placed in a prominent location in Tamworth town centre.

"We hope the monument will one day become an important part of the town's heritage and possibly even a tourist attraction.

"Grazier deserves international recognition, yet sadly he is barely known even in his home town. He has never had the recognition he so richly deserves. Our aim is to change that and make future generations aware of the enormous importance of the heroic act which cost him his life."

Mr Shanahan said it was planned to invite the members of the HMS Petard Association to the unveiling of the statue.

■ *Navy News* readers who wish to support the appeal should make cheques payable to The Colin Grazier Memorial Fund and address them to: The Colin Grazier Memorial Appeal, Ventura Park Road, Bitterscote, Tamworth, Staffs. B78 3LZ.

And as for the heroes who never were...

THE AMERICAN film *U-571*, which is in the making, has angered British veterans by reportedly attributing the Enigma coding capture to US Forces.

The real U-571 was not sunk in the Mediterranean, but in the Atlantic in 1944, not by Americans, but by an RAAF Sunderland against a barrage of flak. The boat blew up and none of its 52 crew survived. Nothing was recovered.

In a letter to the *Tamworth Herald*, who sent the film makers a petition of protest signed by hundreds of British veterans, producer Jonathan Mostow agreed that the Britons who actually seized the codes were "great war heroes who deserve the utmost honours".

He said the US movie had no intention of diminishing their accomplishments and was a fictional account of World War II submarine sailors inspired by the U-boat campaign off the East Coast of America in 1942 and the US Navy's capture of U-505 (with her codes) in 1944. The film was not specifically about the Enigma incident.

He said it was planned that the film would include tributes to the British and US personnel who were actually involved in the capture of Enigma materials.

Around the Branches

Thurrock

News that the Royal Navy has become co-sponsor of the first Windrush Award (*Navy News* July) was greeted warmly by six members of the branch who are also members of the Windrush Foundation, named after the mv Empire Windrush which first brought 500 Afro-Caribbean immigrants to Britain in 1948.

Demobbed from the Navy in 1946, the Thurrock members helped to unload the vessel at Tilbury Docks.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival and the contribution the immigrants and their descendants had made to British life, the six

former dockers and their wives attended receptions at the Imperial War Museum and the House of Commons.

Southern Ontario

After a talk by two officers of the Cadets of the Navy League of Canada, based at Ajax, Ontario, the branch decided to present \$500 to the League to strengthen links with the town of Ajax, named after the wartime cruiser.

Londonderry

After a lapse of over 25 years the branch has recommissioned with a ship's complement of 38 plus eight associate members. The old standard was laid up and the new dedi-

cated at a service at All Saints Church, Clooney.

The committee, chaired by Shipmate Bill Roulstow is organising the Battle of the Atlantic commemoration service and parade to be held on May 7. It is hoped that shipmates of the navies that took part in the campaign will attend.

North Manchester

The branch concert and dance provided a gala outing for ex-Servicemen of Broughton House as guests of the branch, with the Lord Mayor of Middleton.

The branch plaque was rededicated a service on Sea Sunday, attended by shipmates from neighbouring branches.

Durham

Welfare officer and former chairman, Shipmate Dennis Pearson had a surprise in store at a branch meeting: he was presented with the Shipmate of the Year Trophy in recognition of his work.

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PICTURE PUZZLE



THIS SHIP was an escorting cruiser at the first encounter between opposing capital ships in the Mediterranean. Name the ship and the battle.

The result of July's Picture Puzzle, and the name of the winner, appears in page 8.

Complete the coupon and send it to Mystery Picture, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. Coupons giving correct answers will go into a prize draw to establish a winner.

Closing date for entries is October 15. More than one entry can be submitted, but photocopies cannot be accepted.

Do not include anything else in your envelope: no correspondence can be entered into and no entry returned. The winner will be announced in our November edition. The competition is not open to *Navy News* employees or their families.

MYSTERY PICTURE 55

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● JEREMY GUSCOTT hits the beach during the raiding exercise at Scaresdon Fort.



● TIGHT SPOT: Lympston's Basher Bates (right) gives the players some gentle encouragement

Commandos put England stars under pressure

ENGLAND rugby stars are adopting Commando tactics as they prepare to do battle in the World Cup.

National Coach Clive Woodward wanted to toughen-up the team and see who worked best under pressure.

So he sent the entire squad to the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone for a gruelling four days in the hands of the Royal Marines.

After some basic instruction in military skills the team's mettle was tested with cliff assaults, abseiling, boat work and a realistic raiding exercise at Scaresdon Fort near Torpoint.

Then they learned how to put out fires and repair battle damage at HMS Raleigh.

And back at Lympstone they tackled exhausting team-building and decision making exercises on the assault course, and a mud run in the Exe estuary.

Royal Marines spokesman Major George Matthews said: "They were apprehensive as they didn't know what to expect, but that's exactly what Clive Woodward wanted as it

By Dominic Blake

heightened the pressure on the potential decision makers for the next World Cup.

"It was demanding, but they're professional athletes and they all coped with it well."

The squad, who also made time to coach youngsters from 23 local schools and met many Royal Marines and their families at a barbecue, were due back at Lympstone for a second round of training as Navy News went to press.



● SAFETY FIRST: Lawrence Dallaglio is fitted with breathing apparatus to protect him from noxious substances.



● BROTHERS: England's Jason Leonard meets up with Royal Marine brother Scot before tackling the assault course.



Pictures by PO George Tweedie & LA Mark Hipkin CTC Photographic

● ENGLAND CAPTAIN Martin Johnson gets to grips with the death slide at Foggia Tor in the middle of Dartmoor.



● GETTING STUCK IN: The team's exhausting stretcher-run in the muddy Exe estuary.

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Fire and flood, death, disease and de SORT IT OUT BY LUN

BUILDINGS and homes have been flattened, people killed and injured, the power is out, fires are raging and vital water supplies are leaking away as the hurricane moves on.

The cry for help is passed on to a Royal Navy warship some two days distant – go in and do what you can for Bull Point village . . . in Devon.

It's true that the dead and injured are dummies and civilian actors, the buildings are deliberately trashed, and the screams, floods and fires are artificially created.

But don't doubt for a moment that a ship's involvement in DISTEX is a serious business, or that the training will save real lives at some time in the future.

HMS Sheffield's intervention in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch in Central America last winter was just the most recent example in a long tradition of priceless work done by RN ships to patch up a devastated community – and those skills were sharpened up at Bull Point before she deployed.

DISTEX – the disaster exercise training provided by Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) at Devonport – is not only realistic and stressful, but is developing a reputation beyond the Royal Navy.

According to Lt Nick Doyle, Staff Naval Military Training Officer to FOST, the facilities at Bull Point Village on the edge of Devonport Naval Base make it a "must have" priority for NATO units requesting FOST support.

Civilian organisations such as the local fire brigade have also shown an interest, and there is the potential for defraying the cost of the facility by allowing companies to hire the village for team-building or management development courses, filling in the gaps on the calendar between the 24 or so slots for RN and NATO ships – although consideration has to be made for the effects of noise on local residents.

That consideration extends to other environmental aspects. Lt Doyle said water used on the site is filtered before leaving the site, and teams fight "clean" fires – aviation fuel is used, which burns more efficiently.

Lt Doyle plays a leading role in the DISTEX scenario as alter-ego Dick Noyle, the head of Bull Point's VIAGRA (Village Incident Administrative Group for Resources and Action).

He meets the first party from the ship to land at Bull Point – for the exercise, the ship is assumed to be cruising in Vodenian waters and has been ordered to give humanitarian first aid to the population of a hurricane-wrecked village in the time before relief agencies can assist.

Signals over the preceding 48 hours have built up a picture for the approaching ship, which will have a contingency plan – but right from the start the going gets messy.

Dick Noyle pleads with them to hurry to the villagers' aid, but information is the key. A thorough de-brief when Dick has calmed down will be of enormous value right from the start, when the ships' rescue teams have to gain access to a village cut off by blocked roads or flooded streams.

The size of the shore party is important, for it is unwise to just throw people at the problem.

"Between 75 and 90 would seem to be around the right size," said Lt Doyle, who is supported by a FOST staff responsible for the various aspects of the exercise.

"Some ships have sent up to 120, but then communications and man management becomes a problem, and that's often where a ship will trip up here.

"They also need to leave enough people in the ship to deal with any emergencies there," he added, hinting at further potential problems away from shore.

Once in the village, there is a need for a command centre, a rapid reconnaissance and then a list of priorities.

"There are people wandering around, and the generator is out – they need to restore power for the hospital and to make radio transmissions," said Lt Doyle.

"Are the buildings structurally sound? Part of the factory has collapsed – is anyone making use of local knowledge?"

"I might be a structural engineer, so I could help. Are they extracting useful information from the local populace?"

Dick Noyle wants the Post Office secured, as money has been looted, and the water sys-

MIKE GRAY reports from the disaster-prone West Country village of Bull Point.

tem is fractured and the pump not working, which will cause problems for firefighters. Drinking water will have to be brought from the ship until local supplies are restored, tested and found to be safe.

But there is also a person trapped in a car in a ravine which is filling with water, and a van from the chemical factory has overturned with the risk of a chemical spillage.

If a fire breaks out – and in Bull Point there is a pretty good chance of a conflagration – should it be tackled as a risk to the rescue operation, or left to burn out if there is no immediate danger? Are there underground fuel tanks which would destroy the village?

The world's press is already on the case and clamouring for news, but the rescue teams might be more preoccupied with the cries, from the injured, from relatives and from the trapped – tapes of a baby crying add an eerie dimension to the dark, claustrophobic shattered factory, where rescuers might only get in through partly-flooded tunnels, by clearing rubble or by breaking through reinforced concrete walls. There is a risk of electrocution if the generator is revived while a rescue is under way – has the electricity been isolated? So much to remember, so little time to achieve it all . . .

Everything must flow through the command centre, which might order the ship's helicopter up to survey the damage. Latrines will have to be dug, and bodies buried according to the custom and tradition of the villagers – the chaplain has an important hearts and minds role to play for sailors and locals, said Lt Doyle – while a field hospital must be created in a wrecked building, perhaps in the charge of a ship's POMA.

On top of this, rescuers and villagers must be fed, and with another storm brewing there are some heavy tents to be assembled on a suitable patch of safe ground.

There are also difficult decisions to be made in short order.

A man trapped in the factory must have his leg amputated to release him, and then a new way out must be found as he can't be dragged back through water. Then the light rescue team is called out, as the building may collapse – is it time for heroics for the sake of a life, or will it endanger the rest of the team, who may have to rescue the rescuer if more damage occurs?

"We are looking for a number of things," said Lt Doyle. "First is command and control, which will require the assimilation of information and the ability to process and prioritise.

"Then there are individual disciplines: seamanship, medical, communications, hearts and minds and fire-fighting.

"Above all, we are looking for the teamwork that is developed during sea training at OST being exercised ashore in unfamiliar surroundings.

"I think this has got to be the ultimate naval disaster training ground. The US Navy use the US Marines' facility, but that is designed for wider military use.

"This is a living exercise, which can be modified as required, and we build in feedback from operations such as HMS Sheffield in Central America."

Recent overseas visitors include ships from the Netherlands, Germany and France, and the Standing Naval Force Atlantic used the site this year with a combined team from Spanish, Portuguese and Canadian ships.

This international team is believed to be a first, and might point the way towards future training trends.

'This has got to be the ultimate naval disaster training ground . . .'



struction . . .

CH-TIME



● **In up to his neck (top right):** A rescuer makes his way through a partially-flooded passage in the collapsed factory building.

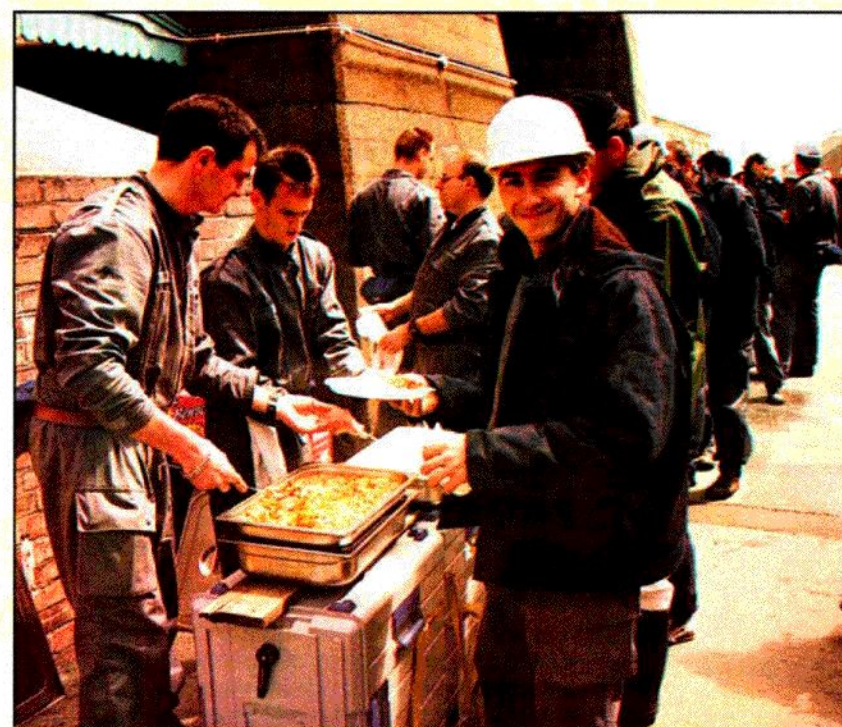
● **Flag man (above right):** OM(C) Michael Mitchell of HMS Gloucester transfers the command centre flag to a better location during the destroyer's DISTEX earlier in the summer.

● **Teamwork (top left):** A ship's fire-fighting team tackles a dangerous blaze at the village petrol station.

● **Seamanship (far left):** Skills taught during seamanship are put to good use to rescue a villager trapped in his car in a ravine which is filling with water.

● **Taking good care (left):** A clean field hospital has to be created in a derelict, wind-damaged hut by the ship's medical team during DISTEX.

● **Keeping the workers going (right):** Part of the requirement of the ship during DISTEX is to provide food, both hot and cold, for rescuers and villagers alike.





Drafty... The Warfare Branch



THE TEAM

DRAFTING Commander & WO Appointer CDR S J J Hall 2494
Office Manager & Assistant to Cdr: CPOWTR D Hampton 2497.
Admin Assistant: Mrs J L Attewell 2497.

Drafting Officer for (R) (M)(WA)(AWW)(AWT) LT CDR G D Palmer 2457.
(M)(R) Senior Rates (WA) All Rates: POWWTR L Morgan 2459.

OM(AW)1, OM(AW): LWWTR J Stocks 2450.
LOM(AWT), LOM(AWW): LWTR A Gale 2450.

(M)(R) Junior Rates WTR D Chattaway 2459.

Drafting Officer for (UW)(S)(EW)(MW)(D)(SEA)(SR) (SE)(S): LT CDR D R Long 2454
(UW)(S)(EW)(MW)(D)(SEA)(SR) All Senior Rates: POWWTR Y Y Anderson 2151.

(EW)(D)(SEA) Junior Rates: LWWTR E Jordan 2441.

(UW)(S)(SR) Junior Rates: LWWTR D Halliday 2441.

(MW) Junior Rates: WTR M Ibbotson 2441.

Drafting Officer for COMMS, CT, TEL, WEMS: ROII R F Villier 2452.

COMMS All Senior Rates, CT All Rates: POWWTR F Evans 2496.

RO's, TEL, JUNIOR RATES, LOM(C): LRO G Hilton 2442.

OM(C)1, OM(C)2: WWTR K Reeves 2442

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FAX for NMA Gosport EXT 2449.

Continuity Drafting Cell Devonport: WO(R) B M Cooke and POWWTR S Williams. Tel 9375 65431/65241 OR BT: 01752 555431/55241.

Recruits flooding in

WARFARE Branch Drafting now represents the major part of core business in the D1 Drafting Division.

Although the Branch is currently underborne by 10% (800) the recruiting situation has improved markedly, with the training pipelines in both HMS Dryad and HMS Collingwood bulging at the seams.

This is obviously good news for those looking for reliefs over the next few months. However, it is important to note that the "black hole" of available personnel, caused by the low recruiting figures of previous years, has moved up through the Branch. This means that there will be a shortage of Leading Hands towards the end of this year. The message is clear: get yourself qualified for LOM and be ready to meet this shortfall.

From a career viewpoint the prospects for promotion are excellent. It is perfectly possible for a person to progress from OM2 to LOM in as little as five years. Clearly this will put you in a good position to achieve promotion to Senior Rate, or even Commissioned Rank, at an early age. At the time of writing there are 4 Warfare Branch Senior Ratings at sea; 2 PO(EW), 1 PO(UW) and 1 PO(C). In addition promotion opportunities for Source Branch Ratings remain good.

As things stand at present the numbers passing for the higher rate are keeping abreast the requirement which means that B13s are issued on or very shortly after course completion. So a) pass that PPE at the earliest opportunity, which gives Scale A pay, and b) pass the POC to get the prized B13.

Considering a transfer?

Before you forward your request for transfer to "Drafty" you should read CND's routine signal which gives clear guidance as to which branches and specialisations are open for transfers.



From a career point of view it is essential to look carefully at the advancement rosters and job prospects of the branch to which you wish to transfer. You may well find that advancement opportunities in your new Branch are not as good as those in your current one.

Check the entry criteria for the branch into which you wish to transfer. BR 1066 will tell you the minimum education requirements, length of service requirement and any necessary aptitude tests that need to be achieved before a transfer can be approved. Remember it is now a requirement to gain manning clearance before applying for the aptitude test.

Transfers are considered by NDD under two categories:

1. Transfers into Sideways Entry Branches. These are staffed by the relevant Branch Manager in the Directorate of Naval Manning (DNM) who, taking into account the current and forecast manning levels of the specialisations involved, will decide the merits of each individual case. This decision is forwarded to NDD who then take the appropriate drafting action. Where approval is given, NDD has a period of up to 12 months in which to execute the transfer; this allows time for a relief to be identified and drafted. Examples of these Branches are Aircrewman, Diver, CT, NA(AC) and PT.

2. Transfers into Direct Entry Branches. These are staffed within NDD by the relevant Drafting Divisions. As with sideways entry transfers the wishes of the individual have to be balanced against the requirements of both the donor and receiver branches. You will all be aware that there are many branches where the manpower shortfall makes it virtually impossible to permit transfers out at the present time, a good example being the Warfare Branch (General Service). Once again, if approved, NDD has 12 months in which to complete the transfer.

Help us to help you

Your Drafting Desk can only respond to the latest information on your C230 and C240. This is the only information we hold about you and frequently they do not reflect your current personal circumstances. Check and make sure that your C230 reflects what you really want. Remember a C230 remains in force until it is superseded, whilst a C240 automatically expires after two years. One of the most common consequences of an inaccurate and out of date C230 is that the individual may well be drafted to sea at very short notice - since this is what they requested when their personal circumstances were different. The C230 is your lifeline to "Drafty" - make sure you treat it as such.

Situations vacant

THE NAVAL DRAFTING Directorate is seeking volunteers for the following:

LMEM(L) for HMS Dulverton. A sea-going billet based at Faslane. Normal LMEM(L) duties. Required May for 18 months.

LMEM(L) for NEFI. A sea-going billet based in the Falkland Islands. Normal LMEM(L) duties. Required May for four months.

LMEM(L) for SNOI. A sea-going billet based in Northern Ireland. Normal LMEM(L) duties. CDL required, from May for 18 months.

MEM1 for HMS Ramsey. A sea-going billet based in Portsmouth. MEMOC required, from March for 30 months.

MEM1 for HMS Cottesmore. A sea-going billet based in Faslane (NI Sqn) Normal MEM duties. Required March for 18 months.

MEM1 for HMS Dumbarton Castle. A sea-going billet based in the Falklands. MEMOC required, April for six months.

CPOAEA(L) for RAF Wyton. A shore billet based at Wyton. Desk Officer, Sea Skua project. Required February for two years.

CPOAEA(L) for RAF Wyton. A shore billet based at Wyton. Support officer engineering authority conventional weapons. Required March for two years.

AEM for HMS Raleigh. A shore billet based at Devonport. Security duties. required ASAP for 12 months.

NA(SE) A shore billet based at RNAS Yeovilton. Underwater escape training must be in date. Qualified ship's diver. Required ASAP for 18 months.

CPO (Any) for HMS Raleigh. A shore billet based at Devonport. CPO of the guard/OOW. Required November for two years.

LAEM(R) for HMS Sultan. A shore billet based at Gosport. Course instructor. Required February for two years.

LAEM(L) for HMS Sultan. A shore billet based at Gosport. Course instructor. Required March for two years.

LAEM(M) for HMS Sultan. A shore billet based at Gosport. Course instructor. Required April for two years.

PARTY ON 'TIL MIDNIGHT

DOESN'T TIME FLY WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN!

It's party time for the whole family at Thorpe Park this summer, when every Saturday during August and August Bank Holiday Monday the park stays open until midnight - giving you over 14 hours of non-stop thrills, giggles and screams. So get the most out of your visit, stay all day and most of the night! Don't miss the UK's first four dimensional experience **Pirates 4-D**, where

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MINEWATCHERS REMEMBERED

PRINCE Michael of Kent opened a special exhibition at Chatham dedicated to the Royal Naval Mine Watching Service and its successor, the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service.

The Prince was formerly Honorary Commodore of the RNXS and now has the same role in the RNR and is patron of the Maritime Volunteer Service.

Sir Winston Churchill announced the formation of the RNMWS in 1952 as a response to the potential threat from Soviet mines during the Cold War. In 1962 it became the RNXS

and was given a greater role in providing Naval support at commercial ports.

When this was disbanded in 1994 some members of the Medway and Thames RNXS groups went on to form the Chatham Historic Dockyard Volunteer Service which has given practical support to many of the projects at World Naval Base, including the restoration of the submarine HMS Ocelot and operational assistance during Chatham Navy Days.

● Prince Michael meets former members of the RNXS at World Naval Base, Chatham.

New look for Naafi nutty bar

NAAFI "corner shops" in HM ships are set to get a new look, with the aim of "bringing High Street retailing to the Navy at Sea".

First to receive the makeover was HMS Edinburgh, whose store now boasts its own air-conditioning and smart new shelving to display the nutty – plus a wider range of general goods. HMS Invincible is next on the list.

● Canteen manager Allan Marks (right) gives the hard sell to his envious oppo from HMS York.



Destroyers who dine

FORMER First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Julian Oswald has retired as president of the Destroyer Club – making way for a more recent ISL, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, to take the helm of this "gregarious dining society".

Sir Julian was the first president of the club, formed in 1992 when a group of MOD warriors who had commanded Type 42 destroyers met at the Naval Club, Mayfair.

The group quickly decided to expand to include those who had commanded any destroyer type at sea, and now a smattering of Type 82 and County-class drivers add gravitas and wisdom to the proceedings.

Next fixture is at the Old Naval Academy, Portsmouth on November 25.

Contact Cdr Andrew Moll on 0171 218 6449 with details of destroyer(s) commanded and dates.

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WOMEN WHOSE LIVES WERE TOUCHED BY NELSON



The blacksmith's girl . . . and the blackhearted Creole fiend!

Tom Pockock, the writer considered by many to be the current leading authority on Britain's greatest hero, now turns his attention to **Nelson's Women** (Deutsch £20) – actually a somewhat limited subject.

Besides his famous liaison with Emma Hamilton, there was only his wife, so far as we know. And Fanny Nelson, a rich widow, took him on only after he had been turned down by a succession of young ladies pursued in his twenties, when he was not much of a catch.

He would have plenty of opportunities as his celebrity grew, but he doesn't appear to have been interested in the groupies.

Not that much of a ladies' man, then, even though his relationship with Emma is history's most celebrated infidelity. And Pockock argues that this was less of a love match than a "neurotic infatuation". The degree of this is shown by Nelson's invitation, at the time of the Battle of Copenhagen, to Admiral Parker and all the officers who had met her in the Mediterranean, to celebrate the birthday of "our guardian angel Santa Emma".

St Vincent called her "a diabolical bitch". It would be wholly understandable if Fanny had the same opinion – though she was far too ladylike to express it.

When the two women eventually met in a London hotel, each found the other fulfilled her worst apprehensions. Fanny, immediately recognising the sexual energy and beauty that had enslaved her husband, radiated what Emma called "an antipathy not to be described". Here was an English lady whose poise and manners the blacksmith's daughter could never emulate and she labelled her a "Creole with her heart black as her fiend-looking face".

Emma died – probably of cirrhosis of the liver, rather than jaundice, as was believed at the time – in Calais in 1815.

Her daughter by Nelson, Horatia, lived to 80, insisting that she never knew the identity of her mother. Only when a collection of Nelson's letters was published in 1894 was the truth confirmed – and the lettering on her gravestone describing her as "the Adopted Daughter of Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson" was changed to "Beloved Daughter".

This is not, as the author makes clear from the outset, always an edifying tale. But it is, one suspects, much closer to the truth than the popular legend allows.

Similarly damaging to Nelson's reputation is **Losing Nelson** (Hamish Hamilton £15.99), Barry Unsworth's novel centring on the character of Charles Cleasby, a biographer of Nelson who becomes far too involved with his subject for his own peace of mind.

Like so many biographers before him, he has a problem with Nelson's savage behaviour in the aftermath of the Neapolitan rebellion (see July issue), which Emma, as Pockock suggests, may have influenced. Whatever else, these books show the seemingly endless fascination Nelson retains in the popular imagination.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Gloucester's untold story

KEN Otter's research for his book **HMS Gloucester: The Untold Story** was used in the BBC documentary about the sinking of the cruiser during the Battle of Crete shown on May 11. Only 85 men out of 807 survived (the author's father was among those who died) and private correspondence from senior naval officers carries severe criticism of the events that led to her destruction. Many of those who survived the sinking were machine gunned in the water and abandoned for 24 hours before German sailors captured them. From GAM Books, 36 Dene Hall Drive, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL14 6UF at £7.99 plus £1pp.

Letters from a Wren

Dear James – Letters from a Wren in World War II is Susan Slater's memoir of Service life as described in her lengthy correspondence with a badly burned fighter pilot who retired to work on his father's estate in Scotland. He died as the author was returning to her own family farm. The letters include charming descriptions of incidents happy and sad, such as a singsong around the piano with Winston Churchill and the grim task of identifying the bodies of young Wrens killed when their chapel received a direct hit during morning service. From Hawthorns, Harby, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 5PH at £6.50 inc pp.

Optimism in austerity

HUGH Willis's hilarious reminiscences, **The Bosun's Call**, span the years 1949-56 – a time of wartime rationing, low pay and general drabness in which most young people were nevertheless filled with optimism. This is brought to life in his tales of the eccentric and colourful characters he found inhabiting both the lower deck and the Wardroom. The author finally retired from the Service in 1985 – 30 years after gaining his commission as an Upper Yardman. From The Pentland Press at £16.

Blackfriars death ride

ROYAL Navy diving and bomb disposal forms the bulk of Colin Churche's memoir, **To Render Safe**, told in the form of a novel about 'Dave' and incidents during his 40 years of extended service – including the famous Blackfriars Bomb, discovered in the Thames close by the bridge. To 'Dave' the "most frightening part of the whole operation was the ride, with police escort, from Portsmouth to Wapping." Also from Pentland Press, 1 Hutton Close, South Church, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL14 6XG at £16.

Taking the flak

PHILIP Barber took Landing Craft Flak 34 to Normandy on June 6, 1944: "One of our LCSs . . . was moving slowly about a couple of hundred yards away. There was a terrific explosion and the ship simply disappeared in a massive sheet of flame. The mortar bomb had hit her fuel tanks . . . By the time the flames had died down, perhaps 30 seconds, the ship had gone. Of her crew there was no trace."

Some War – The Recollections of a Navy Man is available from the author at School House, The Bullring, Much Wenlock, Shropshire TF13 6HS at £8 plus £1pp

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● **One of the young ladies Nelson pursued during his youth was the delightful Elizabeth Andrews, the daughter of a Devonshire parson he met at St Omer: "A girl of fresh, open prettiness, with soft dark hair and large, gentle brown eyes, her ladylike manner was accentuated in this foreign setting".**

She comforted him when he learned of the death of his sister Anne and he approached his uncle William Suckling for money to enable him to marry her. Suckling generously agreed – but then Nelson found that Elizabeth did not return his feelings. She later married another man of the cloth, the Rev Richard Farrer.

New Naval History Titles from Constable this Autumn

History of Warships From Ancient Times to the Twenty-First Century
James L. George
ISBN 0 094 79700 5 £25.00

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Requiem for the Battle of Jutland
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The Long Arm of Empire Naval Brigades from the Crimea to the Boxer Rebellion
Richard Brooks
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The Life of Nelson
Robert Southey
(Introduction by Alan Palmer)
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John Winton
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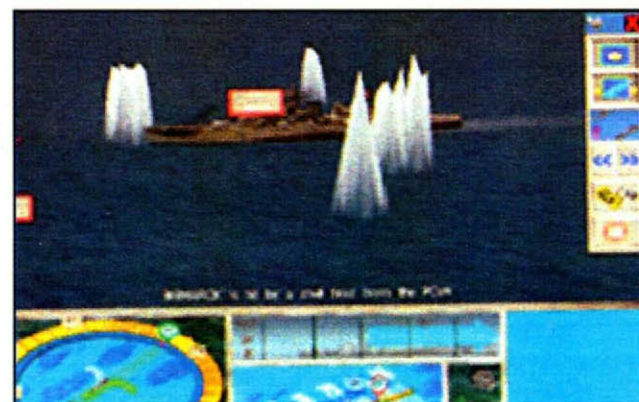
RE-ENACT classic World War II naval encounters without getting seasick...

You can command single ships and attack groups from the Royal Navy – including forces from Australia, New Zealand and Canada – as well as the USN, Imperial Japanese Navy and the Kriegsmarine, with the aid of a new PC CD-ROM, *Fighting Steel* (Mindscape Entertainment, SSI £39.99).

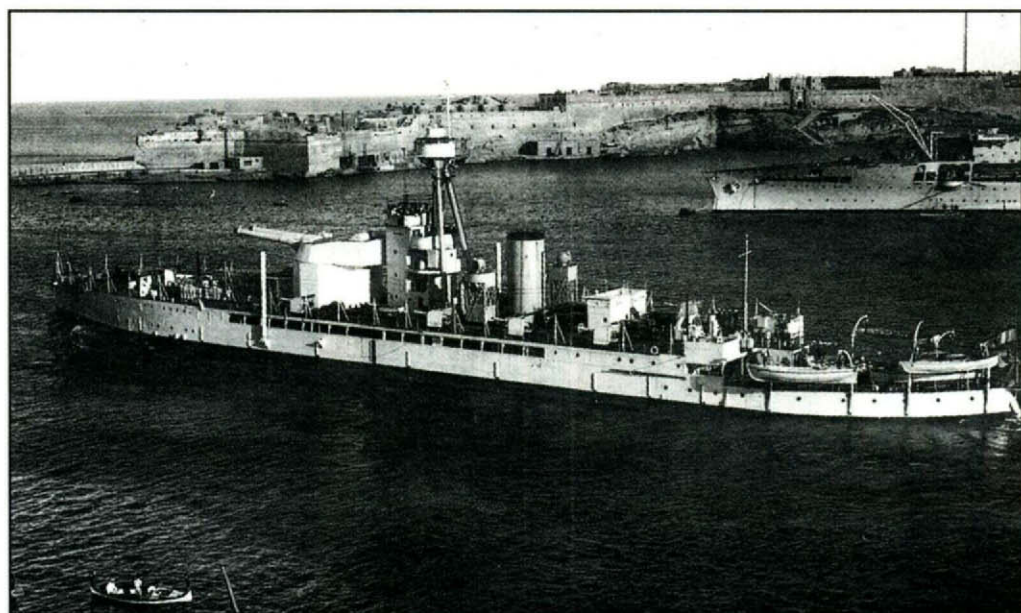
Forces can be assembled from a ship database containing over 1,000 ships from more than 90 classes to recreate some of the most intense ship-to-ship gunnery battles of the period 1939-42. Players can relive such fateful conflicts as the hunt for the

Bismarck (pictured here), the Battle of the River Plate and the invasion of Norway. This test of tactics and strategy takes place in real-time in a true 3-D environment. All ships are fully rendered and textured 3-D models and visibility effects include smoke, bad weather, low light and darkness as well as starshells and searchlights.

Also included are realistic 3-D depictions of battle damage sustained by your attacks as well as your adversary's, while a variety of combat perspectives is available through multiple player-controlled camera angles and a customisable auto-camera that constantly adjusts its view to show the action.



NEW SURVEYS OF RN HULLS – AND THEIR FATES



● The Monitor HMS Terror at Malta in 1935. Built in 1916, she served in both world wars before being sunk off the North African coast on February 22, 1941. Her end is described in *The Admiralty Regrets* and her development in *The Grand Fleet*.

ScreenScene – by Bob Baker

Invasion scare – just one more millennial bug

This time last century relations between the European super-powers were fractious and competitive. Something bad was bound to happen. One day. Maybe. While awaiting developments the Victorians amused themselves with a new sub-genre of fiction: the invasion story.

At least 60 books and plays appeared in the 1890s, giving their audience an enjoyable scare with fantasies about Britain being over-run by rampaging continentals, of titanic battles in the ruins of Kensington and great armies clashing on the Lincolnshire Wolds.

A good example is *The Great War in England* in 1897 (published 1894) by William Le Queux.

In this one, the country is invaded by a joint Franco-Russian force, and for a while it looks like curtains for Britannia. But then thousands of Irishmen rush across to save the day.

Even for a fantasy, that's going a bit far, although it's interesting that no author seems to have come even slightly close to forecasting

the nature of the catastrophe that did eventually overtake Europe.

A consoling thought, perhaps, considering that, in cinematic form, the invasion yarn is still around, presenting us with ever more appalling prospects – though in the era of the shrinking planet and the global village, the threat invariably comes from outer space, and it's the entire world that's in peril.

A recent example is *Virus*, a title which refers to the view of the human race taken by the alien invader, i.e. we're a nuisance, to be eradicated without delay. This is sea-going sci-fi, with a vast, malignant energy mass crossing the galaxy and setting up its base aboard a Russian scientific research vessel.

Lacking form itself, this entity quickly improvises an animal, vegetable and mineral army, creatures composed of cutlery, bits of computer, DIY appliances and sundry body parts courtesy of the unfortunate Russians.

On to the scene trundle our heroes, the multi-national crew of a salvage tug, who initially believe they've discovered a great prize. Before long, though, they're being chased about by the flesh-and-metal gang and trying to work out a way to destroy the seemingly all-powerful entity and save the world.

It's a lavish production that doesn't stint on the action: in case

a life-or-death struggle with an inter-galactic monstrosity isn't enough, the film makers toss in a spectacular typhoon as well. Among the cast, Jamie Lee Curtis and Joanna Pacula are impressive as a couple of super-tough ladies, although Capt Donald Sutherland rather overdoes his Long John Silver number.

Perhaps the best bit is the 'Marie Celeste' scene near the beginning: the discovery of the apparently deserted research ship, the boarding, the cautious exploration below decks, the audience tittering "We know something you don't know."

The equivalent of a virus in current movies is arguably the American teenager. They seem to get everywhere and into everything, deeply unappealing characters (the clothes! the music! the conversation!) whom we are expected to find cute and admirable.

Cruel Intentions is by way of an antidote. It's an updated adaptation of an 18th century novel (*Dangerous Liaisons*, filmed in period a few years back with Michelle Pfeiffer and Uma Thurman) in which the nastiness of the leading characters is fully registered and duly punished. Fans of the TV series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* will find their heroine (Sarah Michelle Geller) operating here in quite different mode.

Great days of ship design

THE BLAST from a 16in gun was very severe and during trials in HMS Nelson the bridge was damaged when the after turret fired abaft the beam.

In his latest book, *The Grand Fleet – Warship Design and Development 1906-22* (Chatham £35), David Brown recalls being told of a later blast trial in which a young constructor and his team saw a vivid red flash around them. The trial was suspended.

"Weeks later a doctor found the explanation, noting that the 'flash' had caused no burning. It had in fact been the result of concussion of the eyeball!"

The Nelson's sister ship HMS Rodney suffered a great deal of blast damage when firing on the Bismarck. After expending 375 rounds the upper deck was left badly distorted, wood planking ripped and many fittings dislodged. Even below deck, pillars and girders were bent and broken. Brown concludes that in the quest for weight-saving under the terms of the Washington Treaty, the structure was not quite strong enough.

The author enlivens with plenty of anecdote a scholarly study of one of the most rapid periods of warship development in history.

Apart from the battleships and battlecruisers, he also describes for the first time the developmental history of smaller vessels such as minesweepers, monitors and escort vessels, built as direct responses to wartime needs. There are sections on submarines and early shipborne aviation and, among the most fascinating 'might have beens' of naval history, the capital ship designs killed off by the Washington Treaty – the full effects of which are to be examined in a future book.

Meanwhile the fate of many of the units built in this period is covered by Paul Kemp in *The Admiralty Regrets* (Sutton £25) which offers, for the first time, comprehensive information on the loss of every British or Commonwealth warship this century.

Over 800 are listed, in chronological order, in a work that also traces the development of naval warfare and weaponry in the same period.

Close attention, too, is paid to the human tragedy they represent, together with many acts of heroism in both war and peacetime losses – the latter particularly afflicting the Submarine Service in the early years of its development.

It is still not a complete list – as the author readily admits. For reasons of space the legion of auxiliary craft have been omitted.

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The GANG PLANK Club

CHAT PAD

Hope you all had great summer holidays. Why not write and tell us where you went and what you did?

We have had lots of entries for the Treasure Map competition, but there's still time for you to enter and find the treasure. Don't forget there's a brilliant Lexmark colour printer to be won!

Thanks to Thomas of Northfleet, great poem, look out for our Poet's Corner in the next Gang Plank special edition. We know you're all off back to school but don't forget to take time out to write to Captain Plank!

Well me hearties, it's been a long hot summer and me crew and I are heading off to find our trusty boat a home for the winter.

Susie and Jack are packing away the buckets and spades and getting ready to put up the old blackboard in me cabin.

When we're away at sea that clever Technocat teaches me crew their lessons. I sit at the back and learn them new fangled sums and that there computer thing.

Mind you me little landlubbers there's none of me crew who knows the rules of the sea better than yer old Captain Plank.



Parrot is stuck for a name

Sept birthdays



THESE GANG PLANK Club members all have birthdays in September: Christopher Short, Rebecca Langley, Kayleigh Redmond, Douglas Harris, Joshua Marks, Luke Blampied, Shannon Marks, Matthew Olive, Graham Lucas, Samuel Vause, Luke Disney, Verity Taylor, Keaton Kerridge, Mark Carter, Nicole Stevens, Timothy Martin, Joshua Williams, Jordan Musker, Nicholas Ould, Derek Rosie, Sarah Slater, Charlotte Spark, Michael Ritchie, Vanessa Wright, Fiona Macleod, James Povey, Ete Dowling, Dominic Blake, Ronald Coates, David Harding, Richard Eldridge, Amie Wingrove, Neil Rooney, Patrick Connelly, Tom Newman, Hannah Griffiths, Benjamin Trevett, Thomas Hawkes, Jack Tyler, Ryan Houldershaw, James Hunt, Ross Nunn, Joseph Greig, Cameron Geddes, Phoebe Anderson, Euan Kennedy, Oliver Strong, Christopher Aydon, Connor ThoresAimee Cartwright, Jake Sumecki, Danielle Gatenby, Michael Roberts, Ben Williams, Daniel Bayntun, Alexander Wilkins, Jack Van Grevning, Marvin Mclean, Stuart Sims, Oliver Davies, Rachael Davis, James Fox, Jack Walden, James Olliffe, Sara Dixon, Charlotte O'Connell, Robert Howie, Martin Whiers, James Lewis, Daniel Clarke, Ryan Walmsley, Samuel Whale, Lian Evans, Leyton Thomas, Josh King, Damon O'Kane, Mark Ellis, Jack Booth, James Campbell, Laura Fletcher, David Chipp, Ricky McCombe, James Thompson, Patrick Daniels, Carl Martin, Clare Hannant, Megan Watson, Scott Baird, Lauren Twist, Joseph Revill, Leon Worsley, Joel Scrafton, Stephen Baker, Holly Thorogood, Katie Baoman, Ben Milam, Graham Bull, Nigel Ho, Rebecca Bowskill, Richard Nelson, Karyn Mackenzie, Franklin Roe, Harriet Campbell, Christine Billington, Emma Murray-Jones, Emily Wynn-Werninck, Max Friend, Edmund Galvin, John Jones, Jason Lane, Alexander Luff, Laurence Hawnt, Gemma Ingram, Callum Carvell, Dominic Tucker, Abbi Lambert, Joshua Wilman, Samantha Weetch, Simon Hewitt, Gillian Cotter, Luke Burcham, Liam Ford, Autumn Spayne, Sophie Squibb, Daniel Wall, Alexandra Bird, James Newport, Stephen McGunnigle, Owen Power, Victoria Lowry, Hannah Clark, Jake Denton, Joseph Spillane, Brian Ranner, Nicholas Blagden, Aaron Harris, Scott Bull and Matthew Colfer.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

GangPlank Members

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--- Don't forget to put your name, members number and address! ---

The Judges decision is final. Employees and relatives of Navy News are ineligible to enter.

Closing Date - 30th September 1999



● **WINNER:** Gary Bloom from Harwich prepares to take to the water after winning the Sunsail competition in April's Navy News. Picture: Dave Hunt, SFP.

Lovely lessons but horrid homework!

DO YOU have brilliant teachers or are they really dull and get cross easily?

Susie and Jack think Technocat can be a mean teacher sometimes. Why not tell us all about your teachers. Do you have nick names for your teachers, why not tell us those too, only if they're not rude, of course!

THE POOR old parrot who sits on Captain Plank's shoulder is very upset, in fact it's sick as a parrot!!

Do you know why? At first it wouldn't say, but the Gang have found out that it's because it hasn't got a name.

Ah, poor parrot. Can you think of a name? If you can, write in now to Captain Plank.

You never know, that parrot could be turning up in some very exciting places soon!

Sunflowers

Did you plant your sunflower seeds? Are the flowers taller than your house yet?

The Gang can't wait to see them, send us in your photos, or even draw us a picture! Captain Plank loves sunflowers!



December 13, 1939 – one of Germany's most powerful warships, the Admiral Graf Spee, is engaged by a small squadron of Royal Navy cruisers.

BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE

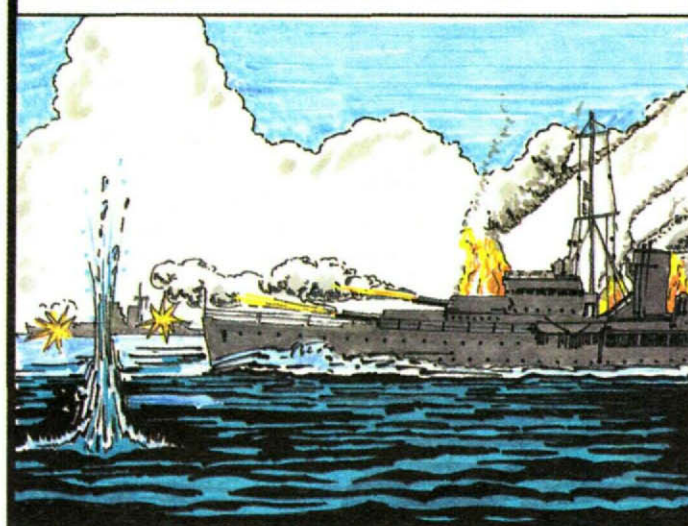
DECEMBER 13, 1939. AT 0617 **GRAF SPEE** OPENS FIRE ON **EXETER** AT A RANGE OF 12 MILES.



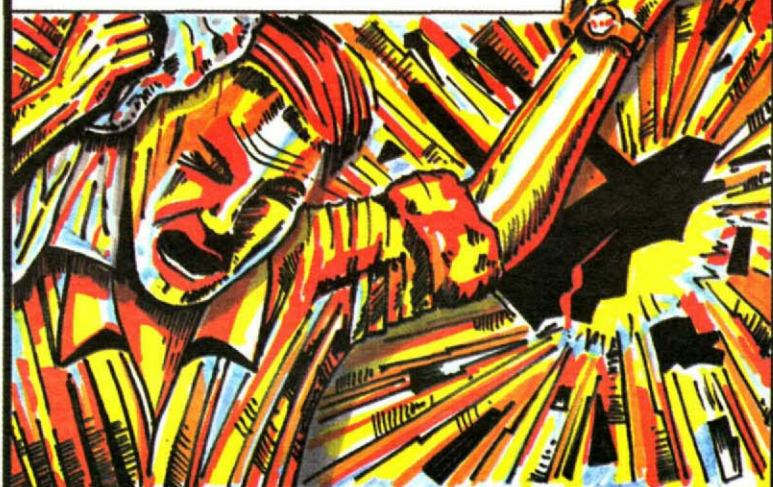
SHELLS FROM **GRAF SPEE** LAND ON **EXETER**, KILLING THE TORPEDO CREW IN THE STARBOARD WAIST.



MORE SHELLS SMASH INTO **EXETER** – BUT SHE RUNS ON, HER OWN GUNS SCORING HITS ON THE ENEMY.



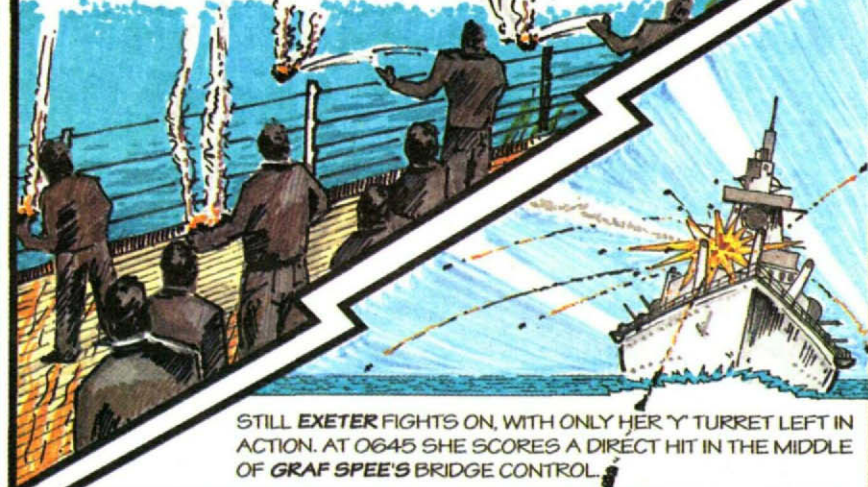
WHEN **EXETER'S** B TURRET IS HIT, SPLINTERS KILL MOST OF THE BRIDGE STAFF – BUT CAPTAIN BELL SURVIVES WITH A HEAD WOUND.



THE WHEELHOUSE IS DESTROYED, SO CAPTAIN BELL STAGGERS THROUGH A HAIL OF SHRAPNEL AND EXPLODING SHELLS TO THE AFTER STEERING POSITION.



IN LESS THAN A QUARTER OF AN HOUR, **EXETER** HAS BEEN HIT BY FIVE 11 IN. AND MANY 6 IN. SHELLS. AS FIRES SWEEP THE SHIP, SMOULDERING CORDITE CHARGES ARE THROWN OVERBOARD.



STILL **EXETER** FIGHTS ON, WITH ONLY HER 'Y' TURRET LEFT IN ACTION. AT 0645 SHE SCORES A DIRECT HIT IN THE MIDDLE OF **GRAF SPEE'S** BRIDGE CONTROL.

● To be continued

Susie sorts you out her best books

It's back to school soon. Susie quite likes her school books but she also loves reading other books, too. Here's a great selection of Susie's good reads for home time!

Survive – Jack Dillon

A really fast-moving story about a hurricane. Very exciting, but might be a bit frightening for anyone younger than about 8 or 9. Published by Puffin £3.99.

Roll Over Roly – Anne Fine

A story about a naughty pet dog called Roly, and a little boy called Rupert. A pretty funny story. Younger boys and girls will like this story. Published by Puffin £2.99.

The Day Something Happened – Blue Peter Viewers

If you love Blue Peter you'll like this book. Susie thought it was a really fascinating book, with top poems and pictures. Published by Puffin £4.99.

Dog in the Dungeon – Lucy Daniels

Spooky but brilliant! Published by Hodder Children's Books £3.99.

The Crabtree Chronicles (Absent Without Leif) – Robin Kingsland

A tale of Vikings, very funny! Nice and easy to read. Published by Hodder Children's Books £3.50.



Adam's fantasy flight

ADAM Spivey, winner of last December's competition sponsored by Lockheed Martin, wants to be a pilot when he grows up – or maybe a fireman. His prize was a day at RN air station Culdrose, where he got the chance to be both! He did well 'flying' the Sea King Mark 6 simulator (his sister crashed it into the side of the aircraft carrier) and then he had a ride in one of the station's own fire engines and even had a go with the hoses!

● Lt Tim Tayer (left) and Lt Glyn Johns (right) with Adam and his family and one of the Navy's latest Merlin helicopters. Thanks also to the CO of 700M Lt Cdr Phil Shaw and to everyone else who made Adam's day.

JOLLY JOKES

Q. What do you call a girl standing between two goalposts?

A. Annette

Mother: Why were you late for breakfast?
Son: I was dreaming about a football match.

Mother: Why does that make you late for breakfast?

Son: Because they played extra time.

Thanks to Kristian Behling for these jokes. Keep 'em coming, Gang!

Winners' Corner

Winners of the Bandai Competition are: *Betty Spaghetti* – Veronica Mollitt, Joanna Maber, Emma Batchelor, Donna Haryanto, Vicky Phillips, Imogen Napper, Emma Whiteley, Jessica Wheeler, Jessica Hughes, Catherine Thackham. *Stomp Rocket* – Liam Whittaker, Barry Horler, Connor Reid, Keith Oxborough, Nicholas Ould, Thomas Davis, Paul Kitching, William Broadway, Ryan Whittaker, Ashley Smith.

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Recruits are normally British or Commonwealth subjects, aged between 16 and 33 years (43 for ex-RN), male or female and physically fit.

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Electronic Technicians

Two positions are available, for which you will need at least five years' engineering experience, including three years working on equipment fitted to RN Sandown or Hunt Class Minehunters, particularly Communications or Nautics.

Quality Assurance Auditor

A minimum of five years' engineering experience is essential, to include three years in the area of QA.

Range Supervisor

You will need ten years' experience of this specialist field, with four years in a supervisory capacity. A sound knowledge of the principles of magnetic ranging, ship degaussing concepts and acoustic silencing is essential. This post would also suit an ex-Navy senior rate with experience of operating signature ranges.

Senior Supply Technician

For this role you will need a secondary school education, combined with at least eight years' experience in a shipyard or military supply organisation, plus two years working with computers.

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All applicants will be given a chance to visit the School prior to any formal selection process. This will enable them to view the School's facilities and speak with instructors about the responsibilities of the post.

There is an ongoing recruitment drive as part of the Strategic Defence Review and further jobs will be available throughout the next twelve month.

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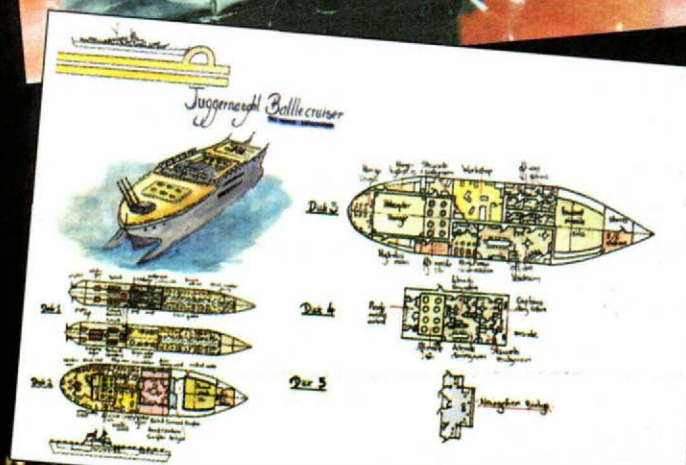
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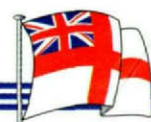
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FIAT has recently launched the second generation of its successful Bravo and Brava three- and five-door mid-size hatchbacks, and if you haven't tried one yet they are quite a revelation, writes *Glynn Williams*.

Take this month's test car, the five-door Brava 1.2 SX, the entry model priced at £10,953. In past years such a combination of just a 1242cc engine in a roomy five-seater family car might have been treated with some derision – you'd expect it to be under-powered and if it did go well you'd expect to pay a heavy fuel penalty.

But that's not the case with the new 16-valve 82bhp power plant in the Brava, which has notably better performance than the 1.4-litre unit it replaces. In fact, if you didn't know, you would think it was at least a 1.6-litre engine.

It can propel the car from standstill to 62mph in 13 seconds and on to a maximum of 107mph and average more than 40mpg, more than 52mpg on the extra-urban cycle. In fact I found it averaging nearer 50mpg all round, motoring on a mix of country roads and motorways, so although it might not qualify for the new smaller engine capacity excise licence reduction, you'll stand to save a fortune on fuel bills.

The five-door Brava is roomy, not only in the passenger cabin but also under the rear hatch, comfortably accommodating my wife's fixed-chassis electric wheelchair with good access too – too often crash protection means high sills and restricted boot aperture.

Standard features on this entry model include driver's airbag and front seatbelt pre-tensioners, power steering, central locking, height-adjustable driver's seat and steering wheel, immobiliser and tinted glass.

Unlike some other entry models, the bumpers and door mirrors are body-coloured, there are electric front windows and an electric glass sunroof, too.

Options include air conditioning in lieu of the sunroof at £262, passenger airbag at £23, and anti-lock brakes at £641.

A higher specification radio/cassette with six speakers is standard across the range, with simpler controls, more functions, fittings for a CD changer and a "phone in" function relays calls from a mobile

phone fitted with voice recognition software to the radio speakers.

Those are the trimmings. The key feature is that the Brava is a fun car to drive, responsive yet frugal – which always adds to the enjoyment – and comfortable with it. If that's the entry model, I can't wait for the flagship!

CAR FACTS

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Last dates for Damon

Motor racing enthusiasts who have missed out on seeing their heroes in the flesh this year can have a real treat in West Sussex this month with a galaxy of stars at the second Goodwood Motor Circuit Revival Meeting.

Formula One contracts permitting, Damon Hill will be among several former world champions competing, racing alongside his old friend Barry Sheene in the Lennox Cup motorcycle race and sharing a Ferrari GTO with Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason in the RAC TT Celebration race. The meeting near Chichester on September 17-19 could be one of his last appearances on the track before his F1 retirement at the end of the season.





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NoticeBoard

Appointments

Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham to be Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Equipment Capability) in succession to Lt Gen Sir Edmund Burton. Sept. 13.

Rear Admiral J. Band to be promoted Vice Admiral and to be Team Leader Defence Training and Education Study. Jan. 18.

Rear Admiral I. A. Forbes to be Flag Officer Surface Flotilla in succession to Rear Admiral P. M. Franklyn. Feb.

Rear Admiral S. R. Meyer to be Commander UK Task Group and Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Strike Force in succession to Rear Admiral I. A. Forbes. Feb.

Brigadier R. A. Fry to be Brigade Commander 3 Commando Brigade in succession to Brigadier D. Wilson. Nov. 18.

Cdr P. A. McAlpine to be CO HMS Somerset. Jan. 4.

Cdr K. N. M. Evans to be CO HMS Vanguard (Port). Jan. 6.

Cdr P. J. Titterton to be CO HMS Sceptre. Jan. 11.

Cdr P. J. Thicknesse to be CO HMS Westminster. Jan. 2.

Lt Col A. C. Wilson to be OC 539 Assault Squadron RM. March 14.

NAVY NEWS looks back through its pages to recall some of the September headlines of past decades...

THE TIME OF YOUR LIVES

40 years ago

THE ALGERINE-class minesweeper HMS Hare was transferred to the fledgling Royal Nigerian Navy at a ceremony at Portsmouth. She was renamed Nigeria and received the silver bell presented in 1940 to the cruiser HMS Nigeria by the Nigeria government and people. The cruiser had been transferred to India in 1954.

In a two-month recruiting voyage around Britain, HM submarine Taciturn received 38,000 visitors.

30 years ago

NAVY NEWS revealed that the Tot – the sailors' rum ration – was to be abolished. We reported that an announcement was imminent as the custom was seen as an anachronism in the modern Navy and was suspected of impairing efficiency. "No one likes to see tradition end," we said, "but in this case any sadness may be eased by concessions more in keeping with today's Navy than with Nelson's tars."

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Caspar John said in a speech at RAF Linton-on-Ouse that he "fervently hoped it was only a temporary aberration in Whitehall" that the Navy should no longer be equipped with fixed-wing aircraft.



● Prince Andrew joined the Royal Navy in 1979 and began his officer training at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth.

20 years ago

SEVENTY-FIVE yachtsmen taking part in the Fastnet Race had been rescued by Royal Navy Sea King, Wessex and Lynx helicopters flying from RN air station Culdrose, after mountainous seas devastated the event. Over three days the rescue aircraft clocked up a total of 200 hours flying time over a 10,000 sq mile area. A total of 140 yachtsmen were saved by various means, but many died. Twenty-two vessels were sunk or abandoned and only 177 out of 306 competing finished the race.

Promotions to Chief

AUTHORITY was issued by Commodore Naval Drafting in August for the following ratings to be advanced to Acting Charge Chief Artificer/Technician:

To CCAEA(M) - M.B. Holloway (RNAS Yeovilton).

Authority was issued by Commodore Naval Drafting in August for the following ratings to be promoted to Chief Petty Officer:

OPERATIONS (SEAMAN)

To CPO(M) - D.J. Paskins (Dryad).

To CPO(MW)(O) - J. Daly (Dryad).

To CPO(R) - S.G. Bailey (Dryad), J.E. Hall (Sutherland), J.R. Crockett (CincFleet), D.J.W. Thorne (SSA Bristol).

To CPO(S) - N. Chase (Cardiff), J. Sharp (Dryad).

OPERATIONS (COMMS)

To CPORS - J. Westgarth (DSCA Northwood), D. Shakesby (DSCA Northwood).

OPERATIONS (PHYSICAL TRAINING)

To CPOPT - N.P. Carter (Drake CBP).

REGULATING

To MAA - T.I. Roscoe (Forest Moor).

MARINE ENGINEERING

To CPOMEM(L) - K.J. Fisher (Excellent).

To CPOMEM(M) - P.A. Astill (Drake CFM), J. Doyle (Glasgow), J.R. Neal (Lancaster).

WEAPON ENGINEERING

To CPWEM(R) - G.P. Feeley (RN Gibraltar), S.C. Card (Ark Royal).

SUPPLY AND SECRETARIAT

To CPOCA - D. Ruston (Gloucester).

To CPOSA - K.P. Curtis (Norfolk), D.P. Vincent (MOD DCIS/FS).

To CPWTR - N.W. Johnstone (Nelson WF), D.A. Rhodes (Cambria).

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

To CPOMA - K. Boulton (FONA Sultan).

SUBMARINE SERVICE

To CPO(SSM)(O) - S. Sawyer (Turbulent), P.A. Crowson (Tiresless).

CPO ARTIFICER/TECHNICIAN

Commodore Naval Drafting has been notified of the following advancements made by Commanding Officers.

To CPOMEA - R.P. Arnold (Richmond), S.F. Hendry (FOSM N Wood Ops), N.R.J. McLeod (Collingwood), S.T.L. Patton (Manchester), J.W. Raphael (Drake CFM), P.M. Ray (Raleigh), J. Talbot (Richmond).

Swop drafts

CH McLean, HMS Exeter, BFPO 278, will swop for any Devonport ship.

LCH Critchlow, HMS Cornwall, BFPO 256, drafted JSU Northwood, Oct. 26. Will swop for any Plymouth shore draft.

LEWEM(O) Hunt, HMS Richmond, BFPO 375, drafted HMS Intrepid (DARSO), Dec. 13. Will swop for any Plymouth shore draft.

WSA1 Francis, HMS Nelson ext 25012,

drafted RNAS Culdrose, Nov. 1. Will swop for any Portsmouth area shore draft or RNAS Yeovilton.

LMEM(M) N. K. Francis, c/o LMEM QC 57, MTG, Faraday Building, HMS Sultan, PO12 3BY, drafted HMS Nottingham, March. Will consider any Portsmouth or Faslane ship deploying or not.

WCH Tubb, HMS Nelson, ext 24294, drafted HMS Kent, Nov. 9. Will consider any ship deploying.

OM(EW)1 Fox, 3R Mess, HMS Gloucester, BFPO 289. Will swop for any Plymouth ship deploying or not, preferably Type 22.

OM(C)1 Anthony, HMS Bicester, BFPO 227, will swop for a Portsmouth Type 23 or CVS. Anything considered, deploying or not.

STD Conway, HMS Marlborough, BFPO 333, drafted RNAS Yeovilton, Oct. 5. Will swop for RNAS Culdrose.

LWTR Pearce, SSA Bath (9355 85771), drafted HMS Iron Duke, Jan. 4. Will consider anything Devonport based.

RATINGS seeking to swop drafts must ensure that the requirements of BR14, article 0506, are met.

In particular they should be on or due the same kind of service – ie sea or shore; have time to serve in their current draft; be the same rate; and be of similar experience.

A rating on sea service will not be permitted to swop with another on shore service. All applications for swop drafts are to be made on Form C240 to NDD, Centurion Building.

Points

THE FOLLOWING shows the total points of the men and women at the top of each advancement roster for petty officer and leading rate in August after issue of B13s.

Intermediaries (Int) indicates that personnel can be advanced before they are eligible to receive merit points or before the roster can be adjusted to take account of them. This means that personnel are advanced in "basic date" order. Dates shown against "Int" rosters are the basic dates of the top eligible personnel. The number following the points (or basic date) is the number advanced in August.

CCMEAML - Int (21.7.98), Nil;
CCMEAL - Int (5.6.98), Nil; CCMEALSM - Int (10.9.98), Nil; CCMEALSM - Int (4.9.98), Nil; CCWEAAD - Dry, Nil;
CCWEAWDO - Int (26.3.99), Nil;
CCWEAADCSM - Dry, Nil; CCWEAWDOSM - Dry, Nil;

Dry, Nil; CCWEASWSNAVSM - Dry, Nil;
CCWEASWSTECMSM - Dry, Nil; CCAEAM - Int (1.5.99), 1; CCAEAR - Dry, Nil;
CCAFAWL - 296 (1.1.96), Nil.

PO(EW)(O) - 156 (14.5.96), 2; LS(EW) - Int (13.10.98), Nil; PO(M) - 129 (16.7.96), 4; LS(M) - 182 (16.7.96), 2; PO(R) - 372 (12.7.94), 4; LS(R) - Int (15.7.97), 3; PO(S) - Int (10.6.97), 3; LS(S) - Int (14.10.97), 3; PO(D) - 416 (15.3.94), 1; LS(D) - 751 (15.6.93), 1; PO(MW)(O) - Int (9.2.99), 2; LS(MW) - Int (17.11.98), 1; PO(SR) - 417 (14.6.94), 1; LS(SR) - Int (10.6.97), Nil; PO(SEA) - 557 (14.9.93), 2; PO(CY) - Dry, Nil; POCO - 530 (8.2.94), Nil.

LRO - Int (8.6.99), Nil; POPT - 569 (8.6.93), Nil; RPO - 731 (3.11.92), 3; POMEM(L)(GS) - Int (1.5.99), 1; LMEM(L)(GS) - Int (20.7.98), 3; POMEM(M)(GS) - Int (9.4.97), 8; LMEM(M)(GS) - 184 (21.7.96), 8;

POWEM(O) - 117 (3.9.96), 3; LWEM(O) - 278 (25.1.96), 3; POWEM(R)(GS) - 186 (5.3.96), 5; LWEM(R)(GS) - 460 (14.5.94), 5; POCA(GS) - 544 (21.10.93), 1; LCH(GS) - 525 (9.8.93), 4; POSTD(GS) - 821 (12.2.92), 2; LSTD(GS) - 485 (17.2.94), 1; POSA(GS) - 241 (12.12.95), 2; LSA(GS) - 148 (5.12.96), 2; POWTR(GS) - 548 (23.11.93), 3; LWTR(GS) - 573 (16.3.94), 4; POMA - Int (9.9.97), 7; LMA - Int (9.9.97), 7; PO(S)(SM)(O) - 509 (24.3.93), 1; LS(S)(SM) - 596 (11.10.93), 1; PO(TS)(SM) - 563 (31.8.93), Nil; TS(S)(SM) - 575 (15.12.93), Nil; PORS(SM) - 308 (14.2.95), Nil; LRO(SM) - Int (9.6.98), Nil; POMEM(L)(SM) - Int (2.5.99), 2; LMEM(L)(SM) - Dry, 6; POMEM(M)(SM) - Dry, 2; LMEM(M)(SM) - Dry, 7.

POWEM(R)(SM) - 679 (3.11.92), Nil; LWEM(R)(SM) - 1021 (30.8.90), 1; POSA(SM) - Int (14.7.97), Nil; LSA(SM) - Int (15.3.98), Nil; POWTR(SM) - Int (10.2.99), Nil; LWTR(SM) - Int (24.4.99), Nil; POCA(SM) - Int (3.12.97), Nil; LCH(SM) - 787 (13.8.92), Nil; POSTD(SM) - 690 (31.3.92), Nil; LSTD(SM) - 423 (16.2.95), 1;

POA(AH) - 608 (27.4.93), Nil; LA(AH) - 421 (6.12.94), 1; POA(METOC) - Dry, Nil; LA(METOC) - Int (6.10.98), 1; POA(PHOT) - 1037 (5.6.90), 1; POA(SE) - 825 (30.9.91), 1; LA(SE) - Int (14.11.97), Nil; POACMN - 459 (5.5.94), 1; POAC - Dry, Nil; POAEM(M) - Int (18.3.99), 3; LAEM(M) - 485 (3.5.94), 5; POAEM(R) - Dry, Nil; LAEM(R) - 539 (17.2.94), 5; POAEM(L) - Dry, Nil; LAEM(L) - 465 (16.6.94), 3.

POW(R) - Dry, Nil; POW(RS) - 688 (13.10.92), Nil; LWRO - Dry, Nil; POWPT - Dry, Nil; RPOW Dry, Nil; POWCA - Dry, Nil; LWCH - Dry, Nil; POWSTD - Dry, Nil; LWSTD - 329 (19.10.95), Nil; POWSA - Dry, Nil; LWSA - Dry, Nil; POWWTR - Dry, Nil; LWVTR - 539 (24.3.94), Nil; POWWTR(G) - Dry, Nil; POW(METOC) - Dry, Nil; LW(METOC) - Dry, Nil; POWPHOT - Dry, Nil; POWAEM(M) - Dry, Nil; LWAE(M) - Dry, Nil; POWAEM(R) - Dry, Nil; LWAE(R) - Dry, Nil; POWAEM(L) - Dry, Nil; LWAE(L) - Dry, Nil; POWETS - 887 (12.12.91), Nil; LWETS - 699 (22.9.92), Nil; LWTEL - 770 (16.8.91), Nil; POWWA - 642 (10.3.93), Nil; LWWA - 445 (7.9.94), Nil; POWDHYG - Int

(17.11.97), Nil; POWDSA - Int (30.1.97), Nil; LWDSA - 67 (29.5.97), Nil; POEN(G) - Dry, Nil; LEN(G) - Dry, Nil; PONN - Int (13.1.98), 6; POMA(Q) - Dry, Nil; LMA(Q) - Dry, Nil; PO(AWW) - Int (8.9.98), Nil; LOM(AWW) - Int (17.11.98), Nil; PO(AWT) - Int (16.11.98), Nil; LOM(AWT) - Int (17.11.98), Nil; PO(UW) - Int (16.3.99), Nil; LOM(UW) - Int (4.8.98), Nil; PO(EW) - Int (9.6.98), Nil; LOM(EW) - Int (17.11.98), Nil; PO(MW) - Int (8.9.98), Nil; LOM(MW) - Int (9.6.98), Nil; PO(C) - Int (17.8.98), Nil; LOM(C) - Int (8.9.98), Nil; PO(SSM) - Int (12.2.98), Nil; LOM(SSM) - Int (29.7.97), Nil; PO(TSM) - 77 (14.11.96), Nil; LOM(TSM) - Int (19.3.97), Nil; PO(CSM) - Int (11.2.97), Nil; LOM(CSM) - Int (7.1.99), Nil; PO(WSM) - Int (2.9.97), 3; LOM(WSM) - 642 (28.10.92), 2.

Basic date for the following category, which has no examination for the next higher rate, is applied in accordance with BR1066 Chapter 22:

POTEL - 913 (28.4.93), Nil;
The number of B13s issued in the female categories are those advanced from the female roster.

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Deaths

PO(S) Graeme Davenport, HMS Campbelltown, July 16.

MEM(M) William Spencer Chapman, HMS Herald, July 16.

CPDAEA(L) Edwin David Free, 899 NAS, HMS Heron, July 27.

POMEM H. W. E. Taylor, HMS Ark Royal, July 31.

Rear Admiral Hugh Balfour CB, LVO, Commander of Sultan of Oman's Navy 1985-90 and CO HMS Exeter in Falklands War. Served 1951-90. Other ships: Rothesay, Sheraton (CO), Britannia, Phoebe (CO), Whitby (CO, Beira patrol). Deputy Director, Command, Control and Communications and Chief Naval Signal Officer 1979-81, Director of Maritime Tactical School 1983-85. June 29, aged 66.

Air Commodore Sir Peter Vanneck CB, GBE, AFC, served in RN 1939-49 and Royal Auxiliary Air Force 1950-74 becoming Inspector General and honorary Air Commodore. Mayor of London 1977-78. Ships: Nelson, King George V, Eskimo, MTB 696 (CO, N. Africa landings). Post-war member of FAA - 771 and 807 NAS (Seafires). Aged 77.

Capt Humphry Boys-Smith DSO and Bar, DSC, RNR, wartime frigate CO, served in RNR 1921-45, MN 1922-35, Colonial Marine Service 1935-39 and 1946-50. Ships: HM trawler Tourmaline, Dutch coaster Twente (CO) for Dunkirk - six trips (DSO), HMS Anemone (CO, Atlantic convoys). Sunk Italian submarine Nani - Bar to DSO). Spey (CO, Took part in sinking of U-136, N. Africa landings - rescued 800 American troops from sinking landing craft. DSC and US Citation for Meritorious Service. Took part in climactic battle around Atlantic convoy ONS 5 in May 1943). Younger Brother of Trinity House, member of Hon Company of Master Mariners. June 24, aged 94.

Capt Alastair Robin DSC, Gunnery Officer of HMS Kelly in WW2 under command of Lord Mountbatten. Served 1925-61. Other ships included Witch, Lanka, Cleopatra, President, Pembroke, Coquette, Illustrious (Madagascar). Served on staff of Mountbatten (Supreme Allied Commander SE Asia). Post-war: CO Gunnery School at Chatham, Captain Fishery Protection, Intelligence Officer on Nato staff Washington, CO HMS Bermuda 1959-61. Member of Association of RN Officers. Aged 87.

Col Bernard William (Bill) de Courcy-Ireland DSC, RM, Fleet RM Officer on staff of C-in-C Home Fleet 1957-59. Served 1928-59. Appointments: HMS Royal Oak, RAF Leuchars (for flying training), Glorious, Courageous (810 and 820 NAS), Warspite, Maidstone, HMS Nile (Alexandria), Mobile Naval Base Defence Organisation No. 2 (Commandos. Sicily landings - wounded), 45 Cdo (Holland 1945), 30 Assault Unit (CO, Unit seized secret German equipment and documents including entire records of German Navy during advance into Germany). Post-war served in HM ships Newcastle and Liverpool. CO NCOs' School. CO 42 Cdo 1951-54 (Malaya). Commandant Officers' School RM 1954-57. Aged 89.

Cdr Edward Balston DSO. Submarine CO, pioneered submerged attack by a dived submarine on another. Served 1924-53.

Appointments: Otus, L23, L19, Rorqual, H49 (CO), Tribune (CO), Trusty (CO), Indian Ocean). HMS Beaufield (Melbourne). Aged 88.

Lt Cdr Cornelius (Corny) Burke DSC and two Bars, RCNVR. Served 1939-46 in Coastal Forces. Appointments: King Alfred, 6th MGB Flotilla (Felixstowe), MGB 658 (CO), 20th Flotilla & 56th Flotilla (N. Africa, Sicily, Sardinia, Anzio - DSC, Adriatic - DSC. Staff Officer Ops to Senior Naval Officer N. Adriatic 1944 - DSC). Aged 82.

Lt Cdr John Holdsworth CVO, OBE, served 1929-65. Appointments: Sussex, Leander, Resolution, Locust (Dunkirk, rescued 2,000 troops), Escapade (Atlantic, Arctic and Malta convoys), Beaufort, Wishart (Sicily, Salerno), LCH 269 (Normandy landings), Talybont (CO). Post-war service in Warsaw, Washington, Germany. Flag Lt to Board of Admiralty 1956-65. Extra Gentleman Usher to the Queen. Deputy Lieutenant, High Sheriff and Vice Lord Lieutenant of Devonshire. President of Devon Branch of Red Cross Society. Aged 84.

Sir Richard Thompson Bt, served 1940-46 in RNRV (from OS to Lt Cdr). Appointments: Hermione (survivor, Crete), N. Africa landings. Victorious (Pacific, Deputy Fleet Fighter Direction Officer). MP for Croydon West 1950-55, Croydon South 1955-66 and 1970-74. Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Health 1957-59. Under Secretary of State at Commonwealth Office 1959-60, Parliamentary Secretary to Min. of Works 1960-62. Chairman of British Museum Society 1970-74. July 15, aged 86.

Sir Alexander Waddell KCMG, DSC, Lt RANVR 1942-45. Member of Colonial Administration Service in British Solomon Islands from 1937. Coastwatcher in Japanese controlled territory in Pacific War. Last British Governor and C-in-C of Sarawak 1960-63. Aged 85.

Jack Watson, served as PT instructor WW2. Represented England in springboard diving championships. Film, stage, TV and radio actor. Appeared in show *Navy Mixtures* and as ex-PO in *Coronation Street*. July 4, aged 84.

Bill Chesson, served as wireless operator 1941-46. Motor sports promoter who designed and built Lydden Circuit near Dover. June 16, aged 76.

Sheila Harden, WW2 code and cipher officer at RN HQ, Trincomalee. Post-war: for over 20 years senior adviser to successive British ambassadors to UN. Former Director of David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies, London. July 13, aged 79.

Aaron Esterson, served as communicator in WW2 minesweepers. Leading psychotherapist. Aged 75.

James McCarron, ex-AB. Ships: Furious, Squirrel, June 29.

Tom Harwood, Ships: Indomitable, Furious, Victorious, Glasgow. Member of HMS Indomitable Association.

W. Joe Hull, ex-CPOGI, served 1941-48 & 1950-65. WW2 & Korea veteran. Ships: MTBs, Lynx, Newcastle, Benwick, Jutland, Collingwood, Raleigh. June 22, aged 76.

Ken Green, ex-AB. Ships included HMS Ashanti. Veteran of Atlantic and Arctic con-

voys and D-Day. Member of 10th Destroyer Flotilla and HM Tribals Association 1939-45.

Bill Thomas, ex-Lt. Ships included HMS Urza. Veteran of Atlantic and Arctic convoys, Anzio, Normandy, East Indies and Pacific. Member of 25th Destroyer Flotilla Association. July 12.

Alan Powell, ex-HMS Raleigh (Canada). April 24 in Ottawa.

C. Ramsey, ex-RM. Served 1940-46 in Portsmouth, Danae, Iron Duke, King George V. April 9, aged 78.

Frederick Gunn, ex-Sto.1, served 1943-46. Ships: Caprice, Cavalier. Member of 6th Destroyer Flotilla Association (1944-46). Aged 73.

Frederick Babbage, ex-Lt. St., served 1942-46 in Coastal Forces, HMS Caesar, SEAC. Member of RNA and founder member 6th Destroyer Flotilla Association (1944-46). Aged 74.

Alan Bell, ex-POPT. Member of London & Medway RNPTs. Aged 67.

T. (Mike) McIlwraith served 1940-46. Ships: Alisma, Loosestrife, Waveney, Burdock, Arethusa (Atlantic and Med.). May 6.

George Alexander (Thoms) Thomson. Ships: Bulldog, Lookout, George Town. In Windsor, Ontario. July 22.

Brian Turner, ex-RM Cpl. Ships: Galatea, Liverpool. Member of RMA and Hayling Is. branch of RBL. July 26, aged 77.

Don (Nobby) White, ex-Sto., served 1941-46. Ships: Duke, Victory, Malaya, Argus (Malta convoys), Cochon (NP2400), Singapore. Minesweeper. July 12.

George Alfred Buxton, ex-Lt/Torpedoman. Ships: Royal Arthur, St Vincent, Keren, Royal Sovereign, Bentinck. Veteran of Madagascar, N. Africa, Sicily and Italy landings and Atlantic convoys. July 28, aged 82.

Joe McDermott, ex-Sto./Mech. WW2 ships included Abdiel (survivor). Northern delegate of Fast Minelayers Association. Aged 83.

ASSOCIATION OF RN OFFICERS

Cdr K. Alan-Williams. Served: Fury, Matchless, Chiddingfold, Gabbard, Ganges, Terror, Portcullis, Ricasoli, Sheba, President, Daedalus, Warrior, Victory.

Lt E. R. Berry. Served: Newfoundland, Cumberland, Mars, Puma, Cambridge, Drake.

Cdr (S) J. O. Britton. Served: Erebus, Despatch, Tamar, Palasadores, Jamaica, Sirius, Cleopatra, Rampura, Orion.

Lt (E) W. G. Bruty MBE. Served: Enterprise, Pembroke, Glorious, Fernie, Swift, Resource, Bellerophon.

Lt Cdr (E) M. E. N. Hall. Served: Gambia, Cumberland, Hartland Point, Grafton, Caledonia, Kent, Osprey, Collingwood.

Captain J. K. Hamilton. Served: Isis, Exmoor, Cleveland, Kenya, Unicorn, President, Jamaica.



Helping Hands



In Brief

Race rewards

RUNNERS from HMS Drake raised more than £1,800 to support the work of a cancer nurse.

More than 20 Naval Base personnel took part in the Devon Race series of three half marathons, and their efforts will help support domiciliary care nurse Sue Bolley, who works for CLIC (Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood).

Bear drops by

PADDINGTON Bear visited HMS Victory during a tour of seaside resorts to drum up support for his Suitcase Challenge – he needs to stuff the case with £1 million for Action Research to fund medical studies into conditions affecting children such as cot death and meningitis.

Memorial event

A TRIATHLON at HMS Dryad in memory of POPT John Munnings, who died of cancer in 1987, raised £306 for the Macmillan Cancer Trust.

This year's event – a 400 metre swim, 12-mile cycle ride and three-mile run – attracted 87 entrants. Event winners were CPO Masson, PO Matthews, Musn Sykes, LWPT Wilsmore and HMS Temeraire.

Heart fund walk

COLLEAGUES and friends of Dave Eynon, who died of a heart attack while at work at the Defence Diving School in Portsmouth in May, have raised more than £600 for the British Heart Foundation in a sponsored walk at Horsea Island organised by Sgt Russ Tudge.

Light lunch

A FAMINE lunch of soup and bread rolls at RN air station Cudrose, organised by Chrissie Hogg, the wife of Commodore Hogg, and attended by 200 station personnel and civic dignitaries, helped raise £2,500 for local charities and the British Heart Foundation.

Kart race for cash

A GO-KART grand prix organised by HMS Collingwood raised money for the Portsmouth and Gosport HIVE which supports Service wives.

Now beat that!

ONE OF the ships of the Fourth Frigate Squadron has put down a challenge to her sisters.

The majority of the ship's company of Type 23 HMS Lancaster – 100 out of 180 – did one-mile runs while the ship was on NATO Standing Naval Force Atlantic duty.

Added to a collection of loose change of various currencies, the ship has raised £833 for the Portsmouth Hospitals Rocky Appeal for a new kidney dialysis unit.

Now the ship, which is in refit, has issued a challenge to the rest of the squadron – see if you can better that fund-raising effort and take the special Rocky shield.

The money and plaque changed hands at St Mary's Hospital, where appeal organiser Mick Lyons said the total stood about a third of the way towards the £1.5 million target.

Lt Cdr Andy Edgley, squadron SWO, said: "We feel it's very important that charities like this are supported by the ships of the squadron."



● Squadron challenge – LWTR Gerry Fitt and LREG Taff Brickell show the shield to dialysis patient Mrs Jeannette Pleace at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Dave Hunt (SFPU).



● Visiting time – Lt Mark Sheldon and CPO Pat Patilla of Portsmouth field gun team with five-year-old Elinor Lloyd, who is being treated in Queen Alexandra Hospital for a broken arm. The team donated £2,000 to the hospital's children's wards.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Dave Hunt (SFPU).

Money with old ropes

MEMBERS of the Senior Upper Yardman course at Dartmouth completed the Torbay half marathon the hard way.

The 13 from Britannia Royal Naval College, under the leadership of S/Lt Gary Newell, completed the course carrying bergens and two 60ft ropes.

They had become so attached to the 60ft 'growler' during their assessed command exercises on Dartmoor that they could not bear to be parted from it for the 13-mile run.

Competing as two teams, they finished in 1 hour 57 minutes and 2 hours 4 minutes, raising more than £400 for local charities.

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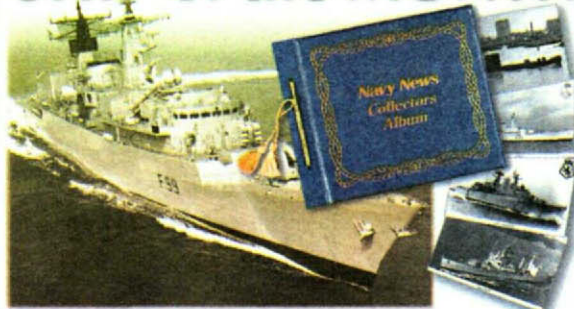
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● Hard-hitting campaign – HMS Sultan's boxing team raised enough money at a 12-hour punchbath to buy two new motorised trolleys for Gosport's Shopmobility scheme. Mayor of Gosport Ken Searle is pictured accepting the trolleys from Lt Cdr Paul Cass (First Lieutenant of HMS Sultan) and boxing coach POPT Q Shillingford.



At Your Service



Over to You

Researching Spain's part in WWII: Juan Carlos Salgado would be grateful for any information about Spain's part in the war, e.g. submarine Sceptre sank the German Hochheimer and two days later in May 1944, the Baldrin in the Bay of Biscay. Write to Juan at R/Alfonso X O Sabio, 31, 4ºB, 27002, Lugo, Spain.

James (Jim) Edward Bandy: Alan Bandy is trying to get information on his father, who served in the Navy from 1916 to 1945. He served in HMS Codrington during the evacuation of Dunkirk and was in HMS Duke of York when she was engaged in the sinking of the Scharnhorst. Write to Alan Bandy, 5 Marsh End, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 9BB, tel: 0121 459 8565.

HMS Almond, lost in February 1941. M.E. Clark, whose father, John Thomas Clark, died that day, would like to hear from any crew or relatives who have photos and documents. Contact M.E. Clark, Ground Floor Flat, 5, Albion Crescent, Scarborough YO11 2LL, tel: 01723 354291.

HMS Galatea, 1941: Dick Nicholson would like to find anything out about his brother Tommy, who died when the ship was sunk. Any survivors who remember Tommy or have memories of the time, contact Dick at 45, Manor Lawn, Waterford, Co Waterford, Republic of Ireland.

HMS Royal Sovereign: Can anyone confirm whether there was a Walrus on board when she was handed to the Russian Navy in 1943-44? Does anyone remember any other ship leaving a Walrus in a Russian port at any time? Does anyone remember HMS Delhi's time on the WLSA station in 1930-31? Details needed of Surgeons/Sick Berth staff. Contact Mike Davey, 35, Stanley Crescent, Uttroter ST14 7BB, tel: 01889 564684.

"Bigger Men Yes but Smarter Men Never": Where did the expression come from? As far as Fred Ilderton knows, King George V said it at a Naval Review or parade, long ago, but he has never found out when the event took place. Contact Fred at 17, Sabina Road, Chadwell St Mary, Grays, Essex RM16 4PJ.

George Henry Tottenham: Born 1916, New Zealand, served in the Merchant Navy aboard SS Blackheath during WWII. Lived around Poplar, London, after discharge, married with a son, George, and a daughter. Any info to Mrs M.L. Pike, 41, Armstrong Rd, Bayswater, 3153, Australia.

Crossley 4-wheel drive Crash Tender: Bill Wrightman is trying to obtain a photograph of this vehicle, having been a crew leading hand on crash and fire crews

at RNAS Donibristle 1946-47. He will reimburse expense incurred in obtaining a copy. Contact Bill at 28, Pound Way, Cowley, Oxford OX4 3XX.

HMS Ardent, Falklands 1982: Having written a book, *Through Fire and Water*, an account of the ship's deployment, Mark Higgitt wants to include the names of the ship's company. If anyone knows the whereabouts or can confirm Christian/nicknames of the following: LAEM(M) M.A. Ball; MEM(M) R. Butters; S(M) R.J. Burgess; LRO(T) A.J. Carter; LS(F) M.F. Carter; AB(S) W. Graddidge; S(R) R. Saxty; LS(R) I.L. Turner; MEMN3 R. Whiteoak; RO1(T) N.R. White, contact Mark at 18, Fairwater Crescent, Alcester, Warks, B49 6QX, tel: 01789 762970.

HMS Pelican: R. Rumsey has an 8.5in x 5.5in photo of HMS Pelican circa 1940-41. If you would like it, ring R.T.W. Rumsey on 01285 831398.

Ronald 'Ron' Smith, Stoker Mechanic 1947-54: Ron's son John would like to contact anyone who served with his father, especially those in HMS Defender (1952-54). Contact John Eastwood-Smith, 246, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs PR2 9HD, tel: 01772 787371.

Fleet Air Arm: Ron Davis is trying to trace former members of the FAA who might help fill the gaps in his late father's service: HMS Gosling 1944, HMS Vulture 44-45, HMS Gannet 1945, HMS Venerable 1945, HMS Vengeance 45-46, HMS Daedalus 46-47, HMS Fulmar 46-47. Contact Ron J. Davis, Corradaghy, Magheraveely, Newtownbutler, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, N. Ireland BT92 6NY, tel: 013657 51507.

Lt Cdr Charles Phillips Lloyd Sanders: Married 1924 and based at RN Hospital, South Queensferry, killed March 13, 1943, aged 42, at Kilindind, based HMS Tana. Also Lt Rodney Burmester RNVR, son of Admiral Sir Rudolf Burmester. He was 28 when he married in 1941. His address is given as HMS Victory, Portsmouth. Any info or help, especially if the second is still alive, will be appreciated. Contact Peter Lloyd (Rev), 18, Cornelia Crescent, Poole, Dorset BH12 1LU.

Field Gunner Harry (Fuzz) Fussey of HMS Maidstone and Perseus ran in the 1954 Royal Tournament field gun competition. Is he the only National Serviceman to have run in the event? If you know, contact him at 74, Ridgeway Avenue, Hull.

Galley-baked bread Competition: Can anyone tell D.H. Atkinson what happened to the Oak shield awarded to the winner of this competition? His name was

added in 1958 to the others dating back to 1932. If at all possible, he would like a photo of the shield and a close-up of his name upon it. Please contact him at 15, George Downing House, Miles Mitchell Village, Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon PL6 5XJ, tel: 01752 779596.

HMS Coventry, 1942: Brian Davis seeks information about his father, Horace Francis Davis, who died with the ship in 1942. He would like to write to survivors or relatives, especially if they knew his father. Contact Brian at 1, Rewley Abbey Court, Rewley Rd, Oxford OX1 2DD.

RN Billet in WWII: Can anyone help Richard Williams to locate the name and address of a manor-style house in Totton, with swimming pool and views over Southampton Water, used for billeting. He spent a short period there on draft from HMS Excellent, and has visited Totton many times, but has been unable to find the house. Contact Richard Williams, 31 High Oaks House, Locks Heath, Southampton SO31 6SX, tel: 01489 572488.

■ Material submitted for this page should be brief, clearly written or typed, and addressed to The Editor.

■ Entries are free of charge, but repeat items can only be inserted on payment of our run-on advertising rate - contact 01705 725062.

■ Items pertaining to commercial work, books and publications for profit can only appear as paid-for advertising.

■ Reunions appear in date order, and requests to place an entry in a particular edition cannot always be met.

■ There may be a delay before items appear, due to the volume of requests.

Calling Old Shipmates

HMS Kempenfelt 1944-46: If you served in this destroyer, Sidney R. Levy (ex-AB Asdics) would like to hear from you at 44, Riverview Park, Catford, London SE6 4PN.

HMS Newcastle 1956-58: R. Philpott would like to contact LCKs Buckner, Sinclair, Smith, CKs Carpenter, Spowet and POCK Danny Daniels. Contact him at 14, Blendworth Road, Southsea, Hants PO4 8QA, tel: 01705 353391.

HMS Whitesand Bay Association are still looking for anyone who served aboard between 1945-56. Geoff Nightingale, 268 Galley Hill, Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3LD, tel: 01442 263405.

Geoff Thompson: A friend from 50 years ago, E. L. Cook, is trying to contact Geoff for a reunion next year. Geoff was a Bdr in the RA in the Far East at the time. 30 years ago when Mr Cook met Geoff's brother, Hugh, at Faslane, he said Geoff was then in the Navy at Yeovilton. Please write to 41, Kingsland Road, Birkenhead CH42 9NN.

HMS Pelican 1939-44: Tommy (Shiner) Wright is looking for old shipmates who

BBC DOCUMENTARY WOULD like to hear from anyone who served on the M class submarines or relatives of men who served on the M1 submarine. Telephone Francis on 0181 7527486.

AUTHOR RESEARCHING the 1942 sinking of HMS Edinburgh and also Malta convoys, would like to hear from crew members who have recollections. Colin Luke, 45 Mayesbrook Road, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2EA.

RNVR No.5 SQUADRON, Armoured Cars, Flanders 1915. Anyone with specific information please contact biographer of squadron commander, Lt.Cdr. Apsley Cherry-Garrard (earlier with Captain Scott in the Antarctic). Sara Wheeler, 8 Nelson's Yard, Beatty St, London NW1 7RN. Tel. 0171 387 9868. Email: sara@easynet.co.uk

Reunions

September

Where are the Glory boys of 1943-56? The HMS Glory Association reunion is at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, from September 17-19. Contact Peter Warde, 91, Dingleberry, Olney, Bucks MK46 5EU, tel: 01234 711611.

HMS Comus reunion is on September 24-25 at the Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth: Dinner and entertainment. Tickets available now from Geoff Harper on 01302 708135.

HMS Excalibur reunion weekend will be held at Blackpool between September 24-26. Further details from George Rose on telephone 0151 625 1432, or e-mail: G.E.Rose@tesco.net

HMS Morecambe Bay Association reunion at the Victory Club, HMS Nelson, on September 25. Details from Geoffrey Harrison, 18, Tamella Way, Botley, Hampshire SO30 2NY, tel: 01489 787111.

QARNNS (Ratings) Association: Serving and ex-Naval Nurses are holding their AGM in the Senior Rates Mess, HMS Drake, Plymouth, on September 25. Details from membership secretary on 01705 367615.

October

RN Regulating Branch (93) Association reunion and AGM October 1-3 at Portsmouth. Tickets and details from A.J. Hadley, 7, Delamare Road, Southsea, Hants PO4 0JA, tel: 01705 738902.

6th Destroyer Flotilla (1944-46) reunion at the Trecarne Hotel, Torquay, from October 1-4. Contact E. A. Warren on 01534 24255.

HMS Plymouth Association (all commissions): Reunion on board the ship, berthed at East Float, Dock Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside, at 1200 on October 2. AGM/evening buffet dance will be at the Police HQ, Canning Place, Liverpool, at 1900. Tickets and details from Martin Slater, 44, Argo Road, Waterloo L22 0NW, tel: 0151 286 6992.

HMS Highlander H44 reunion at the Fernlea Hotel, 73, Gerard Road, Moorgate, Rotherham S60 2PW, from October 8-10. Survivors of HMT Lancastria picked up by Highlander particularly welcome. Details from Ken Chaplin, 15, Great Eastern Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 4BX, tel: 01702

202725.

Caterers Reunion Dinner on October 8 at Warrant Officer and Senior Rates Mess, HMS Raleigh. Guest of Honour is Commander B. V. Stonham. Details and application from CPOCA G. Livings, RNSS, HMS Raleigh, Torpoint, East Cornwall PL11 2PD, tel: 01752 811494 or mil: 9375 41494

HMS Glorious: It is intended to hold a memorial service for those who died in the loss of the Glorious on June 8, 1940. This will take place at Liverpool Parish Church (The Sailor's Church) Pier Head, Liverpool on October 9. If you wish to attend contact George Rose, 0151 652 1432 or e-mail: G.E.Rose@tesco.net

RNBS55 reunion October 17-20 at Bramble Hill Hotel, New Forest. Contact Malcolm Robinson on 01643 705647.

HMS Queen 1943/46 reunion October 22-24 at the RNA Club, Leamington. If your details are not on his list, please contact Phil Rogers, 1, Wheatlands Road East, Harrogate, Yorks HG2 8QS, tel: 01423 504734.

Birmingham URNU are holding a five-year reunion ball on October 29 at the Burlington Hotel, Birmingham. All ex-staff and URNU members interested should contact the unit on 0121 454 1214.

HMS Diomed (Communications Branch) 1971-76: If you are interested in a buffet/drinks in Weymouth on October 29-30, contact Pricky Price on 01305 775107 or Wilky on 0117 960 2397.

Survey Ships Association hold their fourth reunion on October 30 at Sefton Hotel, Babbacombe. Membership open to crew of any RN survey ship as well as Associate and Honorary membership. Details of reunion and membership from the secretary, SSA, The Elms Guest House, 48, Victoria Road South, Southsea, Hants PO5 2BT (please include an SAE), tel/fax: 023 92 823924 or e-mail: SurShipsAss@aol.com

November

HM Ships Hecla, Venomous & Marne (1942): Ninth memorial service and reunion. Approx 80 survivors, rescuers, relatives of missing shipmates and associates. November 12-15 at Solihull. Details from Harry Cliffe, Oaktree Cottage, Post Office Lane, Norley, Warrington, Cheshire WA6 8JJ, tel: 01928 788181.

Flight: Would other members of the crew, Lt John Berwick, AA1 Taff Vaughan, Ginge Worrall, Ted Sherrin and Jacko Jackson contact Trevor McMullen, 6, Dunraven Court, Belfast BT5 5BF, tel: 01232 652415.

HMS Dark Scout: Tracing John Merrick ERA 3 at Vosper in 1958. Lived in Portchester, Hants. Wife's name Josie. Perhaps re-located north. Please call Ned Ferns on 01705 369102.

Officers' Chiefs Guzz Barracks 1950s: Pete Street is looking for Don Strong (Newport, Wales) and Harry Taylor (Stoke-on-Trent). Pete is already in touch with George Murray, Bob Gould and Taff Hart. How many remember Pete, one of the few Londoners in the Guzz Division? Get in touch on 01708 343935.

HMS Cassandra Association seeks new members who served 1944-66 in the destroyer R62 or D10: Annual reunion (April 2000) plus a 'jolly' in Portsmouth each October. More details from Bob Shead, 9, St Albans Drive, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S10 4DL, tel: 0114 230 7007.

HMS Victorious 1963-4 - No 3 Courier

March 2000

Royal Naval Communications Association (RNCA) reunion March 11 at King Charles Hotel, Chatham. Details from Dave Brown, 25, Charlton Road, Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon PL6 5EG, tel/fax: 01752 219472 or e-mail: RNCASEC@bigfoot.com

Area No 3, Royal Naval Association reunion at Trecarne Hotel, Babbacombe, Torquay, from March 31 to April 3, 2000. Details and booking form from Brian Hall, 'Lauriston', 39, Hillfield Road, Selsey, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 0LB, tel: 01243 604273.

April 2000

HMS Whitesand Bay Association will hold their next reunion at the Royal Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth on April 11. Details from Geoff Nightingale, 268, Galley Hill, Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3LD.

BPF/EIF Veterans Millennium Tour to Malaysia and Australia April 16 to May 8, 2000. Kuala Lumpur (2 days), Perth (4 nights), Sydney (11 nights), take part in Anzac Day March, and Penang (3 days). 4/5* hotels throughout. Details from Gerry Purnell, Tel: 0121 382 6648, after 5pm.

May 2000

Algerines Association (Fleet Minesweepers) 1942-62 reunion takes place in Portsmouth May 12-14. Any ex-serving personnel and/or their dependants can get further details from George Patience, 'Foighidinn', 97, Balmacaan Road, Drumadrochit, Inverness IV63 6UY, tel/fax: 01456 450659.

'Z' Class Destroyers Association, Year 2000 reunion at the Royal Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth - May 15-18. HMS Myngs, Zephyr, Zest, Zambisi, Zodiac, Zealous, Zenith and Zebra. For info on joining association, reunion and special reunion dinner, please send (stamp) to Steve Baker, 19, Quantock Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 7JZ, tel: 01278 451418.

July 2000

Royal Marines 747 Squad reunion 40th anniversary - July 2000. Looking for members of the original squad formed in Deal, Kent, July 1960. Please contact Harry Briggs with information about any members at 7, Eltham Green, Eltham, London SE9 5JZ, tel: 0181 859 0846, e-mail: harryjo@cwcom.net

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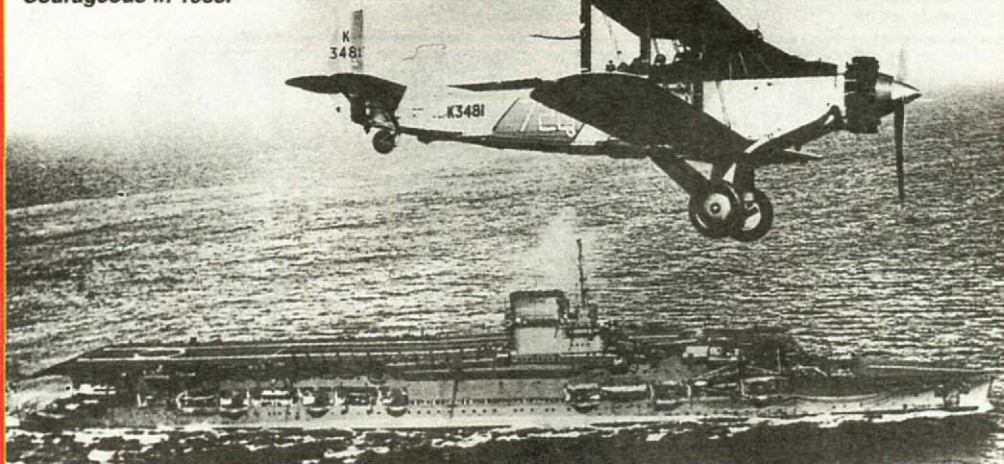


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AIRCRAFT OF THE ROYAL NAVY No 35

● One of the initial batch of Fairey Seals. This one, of 820 Squadron, embarked in HMS Courageous in 1933.



Fairey Seal

SUCCESSING the Fairey IIIF as a carrier-borne spotter plane, the Seal was the first Fairey aircraft to have a steel-frame arrester hook fitted as standard beneath the rear fuselage, and was the first standard Fleet Air Arm aircraft to have wheel brakes.

The Seal was the Naval version of the RAF's Gordon. Delivery began in 1933 - but the type's service with the FAA was destined to be short. By 1936 Seals were being replaced by Blackburn Sharks, and then by Swordfish.

They did, however linger on in secondary roles until World War II, the last of the type serving at Ceylon with the RAF until 1942.

The Fleet Air Arm operated Seals with 820

and 821 Naval Air Squadrons in HMS Courageous, 823 NAS in HMS Glorious and 814 NAS in HM ships Hermes and Eagle.

Seals fitted with floats were also used as catapult flights in warships.

The three-seat Fairey Seal had an all-metal structure covered by fabric. It was powered by a 525hp Armstrong Siddeley Panther IIA engine producing a maximum speed of 138mph (129mph as a floatplane). It could climb to 5,000ft in 5.34 minutes and had a service ceiling of 17,000ft. Endurance was 4.5 hours.

Up to 500lb of bombs could be carried beneath the wings, and it had two machine guns - one Vickers gun firing forward and a Lewis gun in the rear cockpit.



US tour in prospect

A TOUR to the United States is the reward for those who prosper during the Navy's squash season.

The RN will field teams at three levels on the men's side (senior, under 25 and veterans) and a women's team during the season.

Fixtures and events already organised include (venue HMS Temeraire unless stated): RN Veterans fixture (Bath, Sept 3-4); Tournament (Nottingham, Sept 10-11); RAC (London, Sept 24); Festival (Jersey, Oct 8-10); Women's Inter-Unit (TBC, Oct 8-10); Men and Women RN Championship and Challenge Trophy (Oct 22-25); CS Championship (Nov 12-14); Men and Women Inter-Command (Nov 26-28); U25 fixture (TBC, Dec 10-11); Veterans' Championships (Jan 7-8); Tournaments (Jan 7-8 and Jan 21-22); U25 fixture (TBC, Jan 29-30); CSSRA Women v Hants (Feb 2); Inter-Services (Feb 3-4); RN knockout cup final (Feb 25); April tour (TBC).

Further info from Lt Cdr Steve Fuller, RNSRA secretary, HMS Temeraire, tel 9380 23741.

Sport

Service needs come first for professionals

SERVICE people who take part in professional sport may have to make a contribution in leave and/or salary under new policy guidelines.

The Armed Forces policy review has been made in the light of the growth of professionalism within sport and increasing opportunities for Service personnel to receive financial reward by taking part in it.

With the approval of their Commanding Officers, Service people can take part in professional sport as members or trainers of civilian teams, as individuals, and as administra-

tors or officials for civilian competitions.

However, the needs of the military must remain paramount and members of the Armed Forces must not contravene Service regulations on commercial sponsorship.

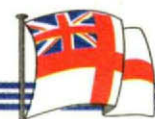
Among the principles upon which the revised policy has been reviewed is that Service people should not be paid twice for their working time, and that sporting activity can make significant demands on an individual's time.

Where permission is given for personnel to take part in pro sport, it will normally be on the understanding that they will have to take paid or unpaid leave or accept a salary abatement from ten to 50 per cent of their daily rate, unless almost all of their duties can be fulfilled. The aim is to equate the extent of the contribution with time unavailable for Service duties.

A Joint Service Defence Council Instruction (72/99) points out that subject to the overriding needs of the Service, every effort will be made to foster and encourage those with genuine talent, as the Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence has much to gain in recruiting and good public relations.

The policy also applies to members of the Armed Forces taking part in professional cultural activities – such as a second career in the music world.

Also, individuals are warned that contracts should not be signed unless they meet Service regulations.



Windsurfer foiled by conditions

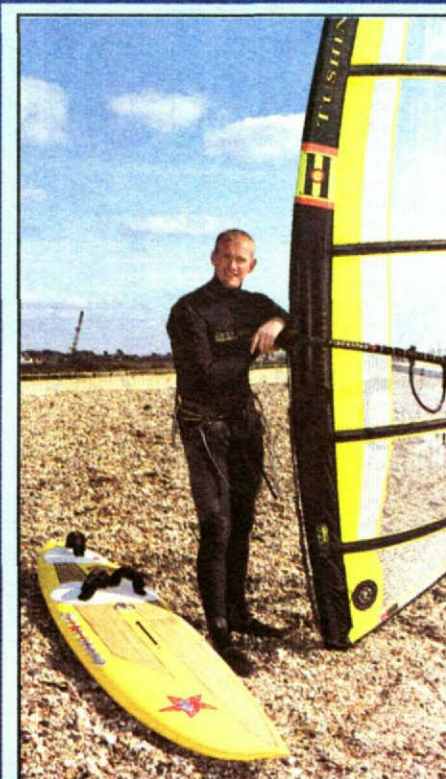
A NAVY windsurfer has become the first member of the British Forces to be selected for the UK team in the world championships.

But calm weather meant POAEM Paul Morris, of HMS Fearless, will have to wait until next year to prove himself on the world stage.

Paul (33), ranked tenth in the UK this year, travelled to Poland with the support of the RNSA and the RN & RM Sports Lottery.

But instead of competing against 80 of the best windsurfers in the world, Paul was left kicking his heels as the wind failed to reach the 11 knots required for official competition.

With no result, world champion Thomas Larson retained his title for a further year – and Paul must now try to maintain his British ranking in order to make the UK team for the 2000 event.



● POAEM Paul Morris.

Divers prove good drivers

THE RN DIVERS golf championship goes from strength to strength – and the size meant the event raised £650 for the family of Lt Ned Kelly, injured in a diving incident.

A tightly-fought contest at the top of the field of 90 saw first-time winner PO(D) Jess Owen clinch the Divers' top prize with a score of 160 over the two rounds of the Southwick Park Golf Club.

Hot on his heels was PO(D) RNR Jim Lynch, just two strokes back.

Fullerton Sherwood Stableford champion was ex-CPO(D) Pat Pattinson, and First and Second Division winners were ex-PO(D) Tim Hadley and Lt Cdr Nigel Hill.

The Crookhorn Steelers won the Solent Divers team trophy, and first winner of the Gibson Technology Hackers trophy was ex-P Party diver Doug Bruce-Jones.

Prizes were presented by the Superintendent of Diving, Cdr David Hilton, who also played.

Tykes win medals on home soil

TWO NAVY judo players who hail from Yorkshire took gold and silver medals in the county's closed championships.

Marine Peter Hague, of 42 Commando, and CPO Ian Clarke, of HMS Sultan, were the only Royal Navy entrants in the Yorkshire and Humberside event.

Peter had the easier day, as there were so few entrants in his weight category that he went straight into the final.

In a hard-fought bout, Peter proved good enough for gold.

Ian had a tougher route

through to his medal, having to contest six fights through the day.

During the pool phase of his competition, Ian won two of his three fights with full-score throws and the third through a submission from an armlock.

In the quarter and semi-finals he went on even further to demonstrate his throwing power by winning both these fights with throws, putting him into the final.

The long day and number of bouts had taken its toll on both men – but Ian's opponent managed to score a knockdown throw in the dying seconds of the fight,

depriving him of the gold.

RN fighters are becoming a more familiar sight at civilian judo events around the country.

For more details of the sport, contact WO(PT) Vic Parsons on 9380 25851.

Hockey invite

UNITED Services Hockey Club will be holding a Registration Day on Saturday September 4, starting at 1200, at Burnaby Road in Portsmouth for anyone interested in playing for the team.

Heptathletes take title

AN OUTSTANDING performance by the RN women's heptathlon team, spearheaded by newcomer S/Lt Carolyn Kenyon, won them their first Inter-Services trophy.

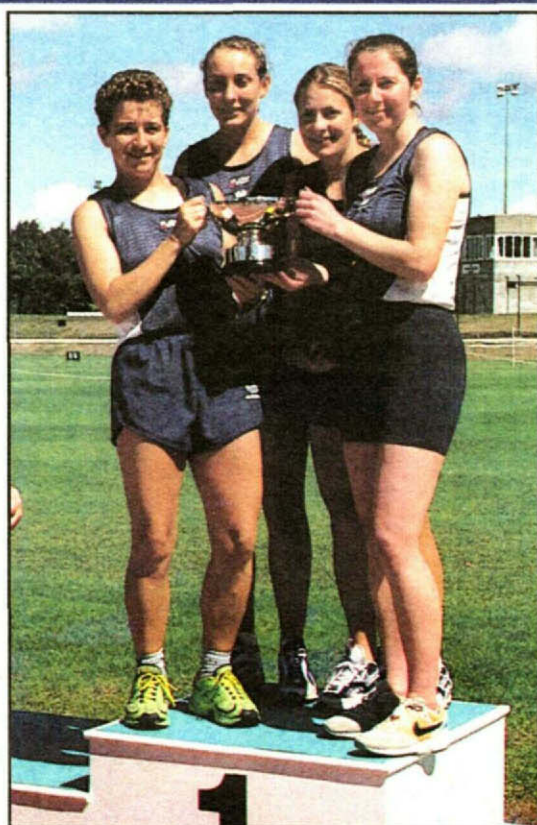
Kenyon (BRNC) had a lead of 31 points by the end of the first day, and was never caught, rounding her performance off by beating her closest rival by 13 seconds in the 800m to stretch her winning margin up to 200 points.

The new champion was ably supported by the rest of the Royal Navy women's team – WOM Tracey Schneider (FOSF), who finished third, LWRN Helen Keeping (HMS Sheffield), in fourth place, and LWMEM Wendy Briggs (HMS Westminster), who came seventh.

In the decathlon, reigning champion Cpl Dave Bonsall (HMS Temeraire) suffered a serious hamstring injury in the first event.

The top Navy decathlete at the event was Cpl Richie Hayden (45 Cdo), who finished seventh, with OM Gary Spencer-Smith (HMS Collingwood), CPOMEA Mick Hawkes (HMS Nelson), Cpl Yardley (CTCRM) and LPT Taff Bowen (HMS Nelson) putting in performances which showed a good deal of potential.

● Team triumph – the winning RN heptathlon quartet take pride of place on the podium. From left, LWMEM Wendy Briggs (HMS Westminster), S/Lt Carolyn Kenyon (BRNC), WOM Tracey Schneider (FOSF) and LWRN Helen Keeping (HMS Sheffield).



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Magical moments transform cup final

HMS VENGEANCE has won the Midi-Ships football championship after a thrilling final against HMS Nottingham at Stafford.

The tight contest was scoreless for the first hour, but following two disallowed goals, the submariners went ahead when LMEM Steve Bloomfield released the ball in midfield and ran on to connect with a header.

The goal spurred the men from the destroyer into action, and direct from the restart the ball was crossed from the left and OM Sanford equalised with a diving header.

Nottingham went ahead with a rasping drive from OM Lloyd from outside the box, but when the Nottingham keeper handled a back-pass in the 84th minute a well-rehearsed move saw skipper OM Alex Easdon slot home.

Extra time saw the game revert to a gritty midfield battle, but the tiring Vengeance defence was opened up by a one-two and LRO Eden notched Nottingham's third.

Still the submariners were not beaten, and two pieces of individual magic by OM Brigham Young, who had had a quiet match to that point, changed the course of the game.

With six minutes remaining, he broke down the left and put in a cross-come-shot which the Nottingham keeper could only help into the net.

He followed that by gathering the ball in the centre circle, broke down the left, came inside and beat two defenders before rounding the keeper and rolling the ball home.

Team manager CPO(MEM) Harry Holmes said: "What a fantastic game!"

"The boys have done themselves, HMS Vengeance and the Submarine Service enormous credit.

"All the hard work and training has paid off and although we were tired near the end, we never gave up hope.

"Brigham's goals were superb, but it was the whole team that won the match.

"You have to feel sorry for Nottingham - they were a tough team to beat and can feel proud of the way they played."

Clash of the carriers

THE PRIDE of the Royal Navy's two operational carriers is at stake when their sports teams clash.

Carrier Day: Invincible v Illustrious has been pencilled in for December 7, and among the sports scheduled are golf, football, squash, netball, rugby and hockey.

Cricketers falter in season's climax

A CRICKET season of much promise and some excellent results ended in disappointment, writes Lt Cdr Jim Danks.

The Navy side hit a fine run of form in the weeks before the Inter-Services tournament, winning five out of seven matches.

Dorset CA batted first at Bournemouth, but the Navy soon had the home side struggling at 45 for 5, with Lt Cdr Simon Morris taking 4-25.

The Dark Blues were left with a target of 134 in 50 overs, and after a bright opening Mne Sean

Needham weighed in with an unbeaten 52 to see his team home with eight wickets in hand.

Next to fall were Bath CC - the Navy's first fixture with the side and part of the city's cricket week.

A good all-round bowling performance - all bowlers took one wicket each, and there were two run-outs - restricted Bath to 168, and runs from CH Mark Toogood (51), S/Lt Peter Andrew (44*) and Mne Greg Owen (45*) took the Navy past their target to win by seven wickets with 13 left.

It was three in a row when

Wiltshire were beaten by four wickets at Marlborough.

The home side made a respectable 213 for 7, but a well-paced Navy innings, with Toogood making 81, took them to victory with three overs in hand.

Defeat by Midlands CCC at Portsmouth was the result of a disappointing Navy batting performance, with only Toogood (45) and Needham (38) making much impression against a varied attack as the home team were 183 all out.

With little to aim at for the bowlers, the Midlands side batted

steadily to coast past the target with five wickets intact and ten overs remaining.

But it was back to winning ways when Devon and Devon and Cornwall Police were beaten by 55 runs and 134 runs respectively at Mount Wise on consecutive days.

It was the lower order which boosted the Navy to 229 against Devon - Lt David Pinder notched 53 - but the county were restricted to 174 against a fine fielding performance.

Next day the Navy again won the toss and opted to bat, scoring 226 for 9 after a disastrous start when they lost their first wicket to the first ball. Andrew scored 54 and Owen reached 50.

When the Police batted, Pinder took 3-14, Needham 3-27 and Lt Cdr Chris Slocombe 3-13 as the batsmen were skittled out for 92.

The final match before the Inter-Services saw a 58-run defeat against British Universities Alumni at Portsmouth.

A steady start by the visitors was boosted by Whittaker's 63 not out in 31 balls, taking his side to 264 for 6 off 50 overs.

But an unsteady start left the Navy behind the pace, and despite good knocks from L/Cpl Tim Burt (34) and Owen (54), the Navy could only reach 206 for 8 by close.

The Inter-Services at Uxbridge suffered two days of wash-outs, so the final match between the Navy and RAF became the decider.

The RN won the toss and put the airmen in - a decision they soon regretted as openers Sgt Glyn Lumb and SAC Mark Bray set an opening partnership record of 196.

The RAF innings closed at 248 for 6, and the Navy started purposefully, but wickets fell steadily as the early-season problem of batsmen getting out having established themselves reappeared.

A good scoring rate was undermined by wickets lost, and although the tail wagged a little the innings closed at 187 for 9, a 61-run margin of defeat.

Eight players reached double figures, but no one played the big innings which proved decisive for the RAF and made them Inter-Service champions.

Reflecting on the season, the players will not need reminding that they under-achieved at the final hurdle in what has proved to be a very promising season.

The RNCC AGM will be held at the United Services rugby pavilion, Portsmouth, at 1100 on Thursday, December 2.



● Taking aim - S/Lt Mark Alder RNR (HMS Northwood) at the Skill at Arms meeting at Bisley.

Picture: Cpl Kelly (JSU Northwood).

Vivid bag the trophies

ELEVEN of the 13 Royal Naval Reserve training centres were represented at the 67th RNR Rifle Association Skill at Arms meeting at Bisley.

Four University Royal Navy Units (URNUs) were also represented - but no one stood in the way of HMS Vivid (Plymouth), who carried off five trophies, came second in three other competitions and third in another.

There were no new names

on the individual trophies.

PO Nigel Raddie (HMS Sherwood, Nottingham) won the Tyne Cup as Champion at Arms for a record seventh time.

And the Mersey Cup for female champion was retained by Seaman Emma Pinkney (HMS Flying Fox, Bristol).

The novice marksmen from HMS King Alfred (Portsmouth) were the Tyro champions, and Cambridge were pick of the URNU teams.

Competitors fired the 9mm pistol and SA80 rifle.

The numbers attending were up from 98 last year to the maximum 120, and RNRRA honorary secretary Lt Cdr James Cohen said: "It was brilliant to have such a massive response from the Regional Training Centres, and the standard of competition was high."

"There are some good novice marksmen coming through which bodes well for future competition."

Veterans dig out hockey sticks

A SPECIAL reunion day for Navy hockey players is planned for Burnaby Road in Portsmouth this month.

The RN Hockey Association, with the United Services Hockey Club, have a President's Day on Sunday September 19 featuring a number of games.

A Past v Present veterans game is planned, and the Navy team, Navy Under-23s, and men and women's veterans and recent veterans are all expected to attend.

Also hoping to be there and take part are all-time greats such as Joe Blinks, Simon Cook and Harry Pimblett.

RNHA Secretary Lt Cdr Alan Walker said turn up from 1000, and matches start at 1100. Lunch is available.

For more details contact Lt Cdr Walker on 01705 724131 (work), 01329 662164 (home) or 0585 828382 (mobile).

Marathon places up for grabs

A NAVY charity aims to have 100 runners in their colours in the 2000 Flora London Marathon.

The King George's Fund for Sailors owns five 'golden bonds', which guarantees 25 places in the race on Sunday, April 16.

Success in past ballots has secured at least a further 30 starters.

But the charity wants to break the three-figure barrier this time round - and offers Navy runners some attractive incentives.

Athletes prepared to run and raise money for KGFS will get an official entry form, will have their entry fee paid for them (this year's cost was £23) and their application processed, as well as a special running singlet and a chance to win special prizes.

Initial application forms must be with the KGFS office by October 1.

Details are available from KGFS London Marathon, 8, Hatherley Street, London SW1P 2YY, tel 0171 932 0000, fax 0171 932 0095.

Fulham youths rule the Rock

THE FOOTBALL revolution sparked by Kevin Keegan and Mohammed al Fayed at Fulham reached Gibraltar when the Youth Academy side from Craven Cottage spent a week training on the Rock under the guidance of POPT Haigh and other gym staff.

The Cottagers' week ended in a match between the Academy side - essentially Fulham's Under 19s - and the Combined Services.

POPT Haigh's training regime appears to have paid dividends, as he saw the team he manages lose 3-0 to the visitors.

● Overshadowed - Combined Services manager POPT Haigh and captain Sgt Honor present mementoes to Fulham captain Sam Keevil in the shadow of the Rock.

Picture: Cpl Steve Lancaster (RAF).





Shoot-out ends RN cup hopes

A PENALTY shoot-out put paid to the RN Youth soccer team's hopes of appearing in the Portsmouth Inter-Alliance cup final.

Three wins pitted them against Fareham Borough Youth, and an early disallowed goal demonstrated the young blues' intentions.

But they couldn't turn their domination into goals, and suffered the consequences.

Coach CPO Jed Stone praised the team, most of whom had never met before the tournament.

"We use the competition to select players for the forthcoming season and to gain experience in a quality competition against strong opposition," he said.

"This is all in preparation for our annual entry to the Dallas Cup held in Texas every Easter."

Notable performances came from top scorer SA Richard Dowling (HMS Somerset), MEM Graham Shanks (HMS Illustrious) and RN player of the tournament MEM Scott Babby (HMS Sultan).

Sailors and Royal Marines born August 1, 1980, or after of a good standard who wish to be considered should contact CPO Stone on PNB ext 22869 or Lt Jones (secretary) on HMS Excellent ext 7322.

Officials course

A COURSE for potential cricket umpires and scorers will be held at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth from October 4-6. Applications to Lt Cdr Jim Danks on Portsmouth Naval Base 22761.

Tourists win five out of six

A NAVY tennis team in Canada recovered from an early setback to record five wins out of six matches, writes Lt Cdr Andrew Mills.

The tour to Halifax, Nova Scotia, under the captaincy of Cdr Simon Brand, began with a 12-2 reverse at the hands of the St George's club.

But that was rectified in the next match, when the Navy team overcame Atlantic Tennis Centre 6-3.

Subsequent matches, against Southend Tennis Club, a return against the Atlantic centre and two fixtures against CFB Halifax/RCMP, all went to the Navy.

The tourists also made their presence felt in a tournament at the Bridgewater Tennis Club.

Lt Cdr Mike Wojcik USN, an exchange officer at Centurion Building, reached the men's singles finals, and Lt Rod Skidmore (702 NAS) made the semis, while Mrs Sarah Skidmore won the

ladies' singles event.

Lt Cdr Wojcik also paired up with Lt Cdr Andrew Mills (HMS Sovereign) to reach the men's doubles semi-finals.

The tourists, supported by the RN and RM Sports Board and backed by the RN & RM Sports Lottery and Naval Sailors Fund, had warmed up on the grass of the All England Club at Wimbledon, and needed to be in top form.

Opposition teams contained a Canadian national player and several Nova Scotia representatives.

The RN played 52 rubbers of match tennis, winning 31, and the tour has helped establish strong sporting and social links with the military and civilian communities of Halifax.

Football plans finalised

WATCH OUT for "new exciting, unique ventures" being launched early next month to blast the RN Football Association into the new millennium.

As with all new initiatives, secrecy is paramount – but Navy News has been given some details by RNFA chairman Capt David Tall.

"We are endeavouring to encourage more participation and support for the RNFA," he said.

Going through hoops

SEPTEMBER sees the start of a busy Navy basketball season, with men's senior and junior (under 23) and women's teams.

This season builds to an exciting climax with the Inter-Services championship being followed by a summer tour to America.

Key dates are: Inter-Unit tour-



● Men in black – RN referees (from left) CPO(R) John Coleman, PO(MEM) Dave Finch, PO(S) Kevin Greening, PO(WEM) Tony Goodyear and PO(MEM) Tony Gay.

Referee! What a performance

DARK BLUE men in black set the standard at the Inter-Alliance international soccer tournament in Portsmouth.

The city hosted teams and officials from as far afield as Europe and the United States in age-groups from under tens to under 19s.

And for the second time in three years the top official at the tournament was a Royal Navy referee – PO(S) Kevin

Greening (HMS Dryad) following in the footsteps of PO(MEM) Dave Finch (HMS Illustrious), who won the award in 1997 and was also officiating this year.

Other RN refs involved were WO(CA) John Brett (FOST), CPO(R) John Coleman (HMS Invincible), PO(WEM) Tony Goodyear (HMS Dryad) and PO(MEM) Tony Gay (HMS Excellent).

The Navy men officiated at a third of the 280 games, five

in the cup finals – and four of those as referees.

The tournament is regarded as an excellent training ground for match officials, and features colleagues from the Nationwide League and lower levels.

If you are interested in becoming a referee, contact Lt Neil Wagstaff on 9380 25204 or CPO John Coleman on 9380 26946. The next course is planned for Portsmouth in October.

Victory follows a heavy defeat

THE COMBINED Services cricketers recovered from a heavy defeat by the MCC to beat the ECB under 19s.

Having put the MCC in at Vine Land, the Services could do little to prevent an awesome total – 298 for 2 after 53 overs.

A poor start put the Servicemen on the back foot, and they struggled to a total

of 177 – 121 runs short of their target.

The ECB youngsters posted a modest 186 for 7 at Portsmouth, and although the Services were 4 for 2 at one stage, Navy players S/Lt Peter Andrew (48) and Mne Sean Needham (58*) helped see them home by five wickets.

The other RN pair in the side were L/Cpl Tim Burt and Mne Greg Owen.

Singles prove costly

NAVY golfers performed well in defeat against a strong Civil Service side at a damp Little Aston course, writes Cdr Gary Skins.

The match was the final event before this year's Inter-Services championships, to be played at the same course on September 27-30.

The previous day's torrential rain meant that the course played very long, but apart from sand being washed from bunkers, it stood up exceptionally well.

The morning foursomes saw the Navy share the honours and hopes were high for the singles.

Wins were recorded by CPO Gavin Duncan (HMS Neptune) and WTR Ian Learmonth (HMS Monmouth), and Lt Cdr Darryl Whitehead (HMS Invincible) and Cdr Ian Yuill (AFPA Insworth), while Cpl Nigel Small (JSCSC Bracknell) and Chris Graham (RMR Bristol) halved their match.

Unfortunately, the recent upsurge in Navy singles play did not continue and the opposition's strength and experience led them to a comfortable overall victory.

Whitehead and Graham produced excellent wins over strong opponents and PO Kevin Thornton (HMS Seahawk) and newcomer S/Lt Matt Parker

● Proud men – the RN golf team at The Belfry.



(BRNC) gained halved matches.

The match was attended by Cdr Nigel Overington, recently-selected Inter-Services non-playing captain.

He and other members of the selection committee had ample opportunity to view a number of players' form, and the Navy team was announced shortly afterwards.

Those selected are: Graham, Small, Parker M., Thornton, Whitehead and Yuill, together with C/Sgt Bill Parker (847 NAS), MA Gilbert Scott (RH Haslar), Lt Guy Norris (810 NAS) and S/Lt Terry Taylor (BRNC).

On the previous day, the Navy team were honoured to receive an invitation to play the Brabazon course at The Belfry, which has hosted three Ryder Cup matches

and is due for a fourth in 2001.

Although the round was played in continuous rain, the experience of playing such a renowned venue was immensely enjoyed by all. The RNFA is most grateful to the management for the opportunity.

July saw Navy Cup holders HMS Drake retain their trophy at Southwick Park.

The morning round sealed the event, which was played under the Stableford points system, leaving Drake 12 points in front by lunch, and although HMS Neptune made a spirited effort in the afternoon, the holders prevailed by 14 points.

Individual honours were taken by Drake men Allan Stokes (80 pts) and Higgy Hignett (75 pts).

Rating picked

NAVAL squash player LWTR Udal has been selected for the six-man Combined Services team in the match against the Police, Civil Service and Fire Service in Nottingham this month.

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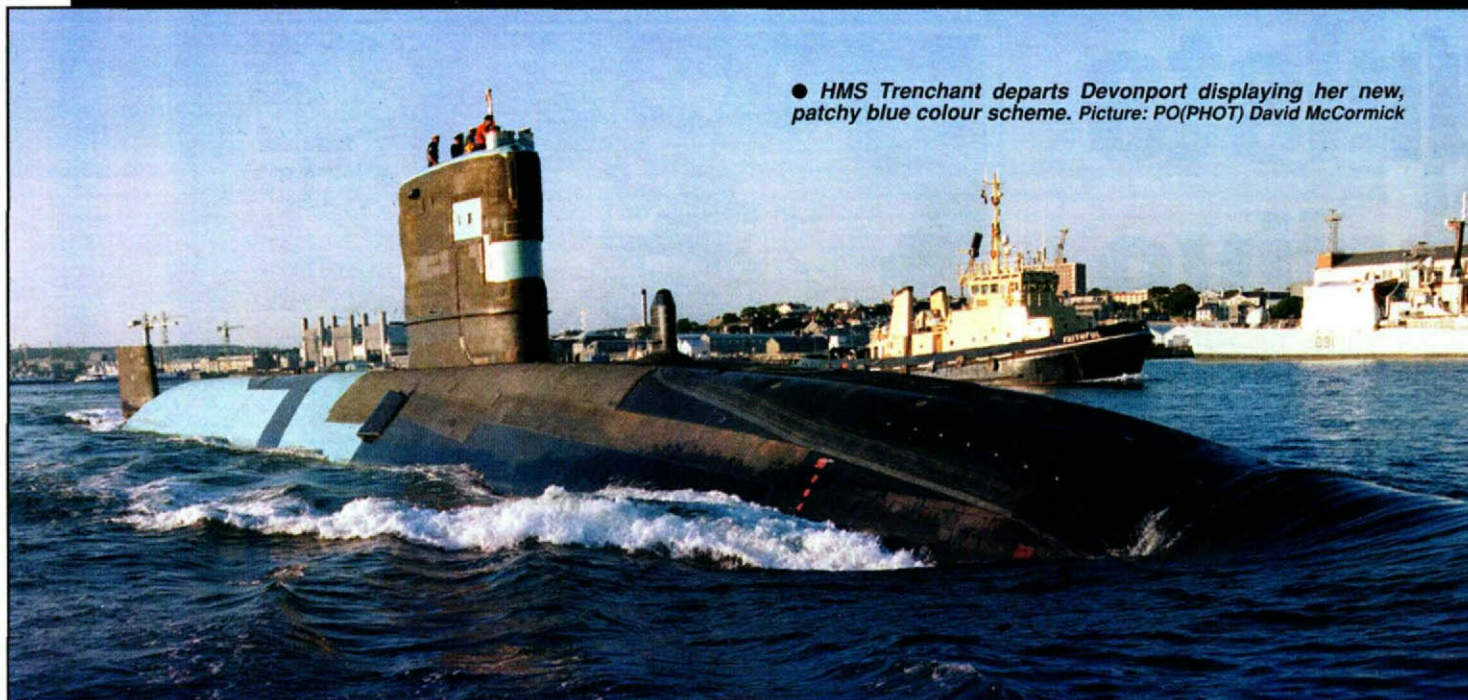
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What a sight! – but blue look could prove a lifesaver



● HMS Trenchant departs Devonport displaying her new, patchy blue colour scheme. Picture: PO(PHOT) David McCormick

THE ROYAL Navy is using old technology to see whether it can make its submarines more difficult to detect.

The Navy's nuclear submarine fleet has made the most of advances in acoustic science to make boats very hard to find using sonar.

But the black hulls, invisible in the deep, dark North Atlantic which was their traditional hunting ground, can be spotted in shallow water from satellites or aircraft – so a camouflage trial is being run on HMS Trenchant which means the submarine has spent the summer sporting patches of light blue.

The visual signature

trials on Trenchant are an example of 'disruptive patterning' – breaking up the outline of the boat using blue and grey paint for when it operates just below the surface.

Trenchant's role in the trials, in which the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency has some interest, ends this year as she is due to enter refit, but if the findings are promising, further trials could be conducted using other submarines in other parts of the world.

The Navy's submarines have a long history of using camouflage, with shades ranging from sandy browns to blues, depending on the colour of the sea and sea-bed.

Capt Scott relics may fetch over £200,000

ITEMS recovered from the tent in which Capt Scott and his fellow explorers died in 1912 are among South Pole memorabilia that are expected to fetch more than £200,000 when they go on sale at Christie's this month.

Among the 31 relics found in Scott's tent are a primus stove, empty ration packs, a Union Flag, Scott's snow goggles and his two briar pipes. Also found there by the search party sent to look for him were the frozen bodies of Scott himself, Edward Wilson and 'Birdie' Bowers. They had died returning from their long trek to the Pole.

Most of the tent relics have not been seen since they were returned to Scott's widow, Kathleen in 1913. They are being sold by a family trust and the explorer's grandson.

Other items in the sale include art and artefacts relating to Sir Ernest Shackleton, Scott's companion and later rival.

They include his boat compass and a painted Royal Standard given to Shackleton by Queen Alexandra.

New vessels to be leased out most of time?

Health Service use of hospital ships explored

THE POSSIBILITY of the Navy's two future hospital ships being leased to the National Health Service or private health companies when not in military use is being explored within the Ministry of Defence.

A spokesman for the Defence Procurement Agency told Navy News that contact had been made at a working level with the NHS to initiate discussions on the concept. "It makes sense to look at ways the ships could be put to more use when they will only be required by the Navy for two or three months a year," he said.

However, he stressed that the concept was at a very early stage and that the Agency was merely

exploring options. Formal discussions had not yet taken place, and if they did would have to tackle crucial issues such as lease time and a mutually acceptable level of notice.

Medical requirements are being analysed within the Directorate of Operational Requirements (Sea). The ships could either be purpose-built or converted from an existing

merchant vessel.

Planners foresee 20,000-tonne vessels equipped with 200 beds for casualties, intensive therapy units, operating theatres, a complement of 350 including medical staff, and helicopter handling facilities.

The ships were announced in last year's Strategic Defence Review and are due to be in service by 2005.

Voluntary pay deductions in plan to boost Navy charities

A SCHEME to boost Naval charities by voluntary contributions from pay will be introduced in November.

It will enable serving personnel of the RN and Royal Marines to donate either a half day's pay a year or a nominated, fixed sum deducted from pay monthly. The payments will begin in January and will be deducted before tax so as to give a tax advantage to the donor.

Contributions will be forwarded to King George's Fund for Sailors who will distribute the money to charities which support serving and former members of the Naval Service and their dependants.

The proportion donated to each charity will be decided by a group chaired by the RN Charities Coordinator on behalf of the Director Naval Services Conditions and the Naval Personal and Families

Service. Details are published in RN Defence Council Instruction 118/99.

Type 45 missile contract placed

THE PLANNED Type 45 successor to the Royal Navy's current air defence ships has come a step nearer with a tripartite contract being awarded for a new advanced-tech surface-to-air missile system.

The UK, France and Italy have placed a £1.3 billion contract for PAAMS (the Principal Anti-Air Missile System). The deal was struck with EUROPAAMS SAS, an industrial consortium formed by Thomson-CSF, Aerospatiale, Matra BAe Dynamics and Alenia.

Work on the Type 45 destroyer project is being taken forward by a Ministry of Defence integrated project team working closely with industry. It is due to be in service with PAAMS in 2007.

Boxer's last farewell

HMS BOXER has returned to Devonport after berthing in Liverpool for a farewell visit to her affiliated town of Trafford.

Boxer, which has now decommissioned, is due to be put on the disposal list on October 29. The Trafford visit included a reception for members of the ship's company under their Commanding Officer, Capt Richard Ibbotson.

£594m saved

EFFICIENCY savings of almost £600 million have been announced by the Ministry of Defence. Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said 1,300 individual measures by Service and civilian personnel had saved £594 million – £89 million above target. Among the largest savings – of £11 million – was by formation of the Defence Communication Services Agency.

Argus's brilliant return

● SHINING IN brilliant Scottish weather, RFA Argus returns home – to Clyde Naval Base – after fulfilling a central support role for Naval forces in the Adriatic. Her next task will be less onerous – as one of the stars in Plymouth Navy Days during the August bank holiday weekend. Picture: LW(PHOT) Jane Plunkett



Belgian sailor saves Tower Bridge woman

A BELGIAN sailor on a warship visiting London rescued a woman from drowning in the Thames after she had apparently jumped from Tower Bridge.

PO Dominiek Suski was on guard duty on board the minehunter Lobelia berthed near HMS Belfast in the Pool of London, when he saw the British woman, in her twenties, jump.

Witnesses said that without hesi-

tating, PO Suski, a diver, raised the alarm and jumped in after her.

He was helped by another Belgian sailor and together they managed to get the woman on board the Lobelia where she was resuscitated by First Sgt Masschaele, a medic. She was taken to hospital where she recovered.

The Lobelia and her sister-ship Crocus were visiting London at the end of July to mark Belgium Day, an event commemorated by British ex-Service associations.

Holland 1 cash

NATIONAL Lottery funding of £440,000 came with Stage One approval last month for "conservation and interpretation" of Holland 1, the Royal Navy's first submarine preserved at the RN Submarine Museum, Gosport.



...EDUCATION FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

A Navy News Advertising Feature

Base metal into gold

Some of our young scientists are getting good results with plenty of practical experience. (See page III)

ALL parents should note the contact number for Service Children's Education (SCE), because you never know when you might need its expert and professional advice.

SCE can deal with any questions you have about your child's education - from "What can I do? My daughter is not happy at school," to "What is the standard of education and curriculum like in Australia?"

SCE holds a comprehensive and extensive range of information on schools and educational systems both within the UK and overseas. It can provide you with information on different examination systems and assessment arrangements, as well as arranging for some assessments to be taken overseas.

The SCE library has information and prospectuses on a large number of boarding schools both within the independent and state sectors. It has the views of other Service parents whose children have attended these schools and can tell you what to look for when you visit a school.

If you would like to know what your child should be learning in English at the age of eight, SCE can help you. It has information on the National Curriculum, GCSEs, A-levels, GNVQs, the International Baccalaureate, B Techs etc. If

Any questions? SCE will have the answers (or know someone who does!)

you have a question that it can't answer, it usually knows someone who can!

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- Post 16 courses
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- MOD Allowances
- National Curriculum
- Nursery Education
- School Admissions
- Schools Overseas
- School Governors
- Secondary School Selection
- Special Educational Needs

If you require support at a

school meeting, with a Local Education Authority or at a School Admissions Appeal, SCE staff can help you. They can represent you at meetings or attend meetings with you to provide support.

So - if you have any questions or concerns about your child's education, SCE's staff are waiting to hear from you at the address and telephone number below.

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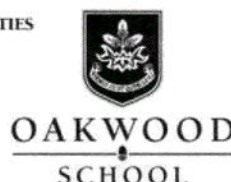
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STUDENTS from Kingham Hill School, Oxfordshire spent two weeks in Zimbabwe this summer helping with an AIDS teaching programme.

They worked on building a new home for a blind widow and supported a youth club in Mutare, run by Tearfund, the international aid charity.

This is the first time Tearfund have taken a school party overseas. "They put flesh on the financial support that Tearfund have given to the region over the past eight years," said school chaplain Steve Hayes, who pioneered the idea.

"The trip developed from the life skills programme for GCSE Fifth Formers and was an excellent way to get an insight into world poverty first hand."

For the past five years Kingham Hill has also been linked with a Reconciliation programme in Romania, taking around £40,000 of aid there.

David Greator and Claire Tomlinson with other pupils and staff and some of the medical and musical items they took to Zimbabwe.



Boarding at Club Class now...

NAVY children enjoy 'staying over' in the secure, spacious and homely environment of Oakwood School, Chichester.

Pleasantly situated between the South Downs and the sea, Oakwood is a co-ed catering for around 170 children aged between two-and-a-half and 11.

It has two departments, the pre-prep incorporating a kindergarten, and prep for the older children.

Although the pre-prep is housed in a separate building, it shares the facilities of the main school, including the technology centre, a well-equipped computer room, art room and a new music and theatre complex.

Set in 160 acres of park and woodland, Oakwood is a large Georgian country house.

The 'Badger Club' takes a fresh look at the concept of boarding which emphasises the fun side as well as the convenience of flexible periods of stay, helping parents who may have work commitments or simply need a holiday – an approach that has made it a favourite with Navy parents.

Oakwood boasts a very high record of achievement in National Curriculum Tests and an entry success level of over 95 per cent to pupils' first choice senior schools.

Beyond that, says Headmaster Andrew Cowell: "Our aim is to instil in all our children a consideration for the needs of others and a commitment to hard work, thus ensuring that we offer them the best possible start to their lives within a safe, happy and purposeful community."

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Kelly kept on the advance

KELLY College scored its best ever A-level pass rate of over 93 per cent last year, further underlining its standing as one of the leading schools in the South West.

The year also saw well over 95 per cent of Sixth Form leavers able to proceed to University or tertiary education.

Kelly also has a national reputation in swimming, rugby and athletics, while hockey and netball teams have achieved county and regional success.

Recent developments include the opening of the Lower School House for 9-13 year olds in 1996, flexi-boarding for all day pupils, the launch of the Admiral Kelly Millennium Appeal in 1997 and the opening of a new classroom block at the Junior School last September.

Over the next year, a further classroom block at the Junior School and an Indoor Sporting Facility will be opened. With over 480 pupils between two-and-a-half and 18, Kelly is bigger than ever.

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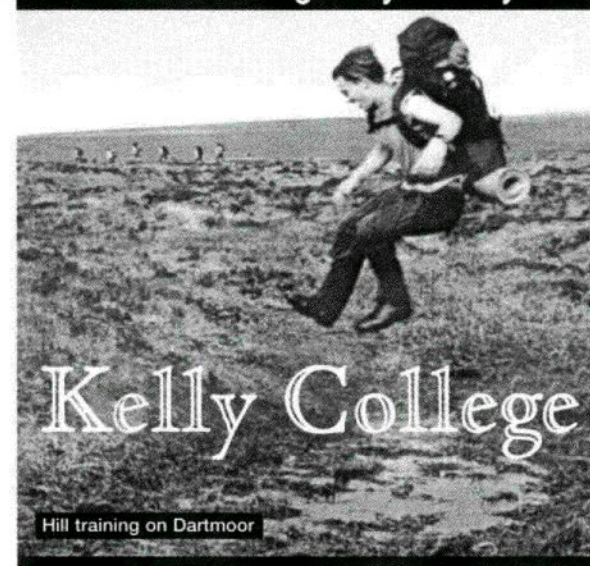
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THE NEXT CENTURY



A Navy News Advertising Feature

They need space – and we provide it

"BOARDING? Wouldn't touch it with a barge-pole," said the rather formidable lady to whom I had just been introduced, writes Mark Slater, Headmaster of St Lawrence College.

I sensed it was going to be one of those conversations.

"I want my children at home with us, where they belong. We're a close family."

One of the "children", a girl of about 15, rolled her eyes, looked awkward and gazed into the middle distance with embarrassment. A typical teenage girl, a typical mum, a typical scene.

But I had to bite my tongue to avoid pointing out to this typical mum that keeping her daughter at home hadn't necessarily improved their relationship; that I had witnessed much warmer and more loving scenes between parents and boarding children when they got together on school occasions, or at half-term, or some week-ends; that teenagers must have space of their own, away from their parents, and perhaps the safest way to achieve this is through a boarding education.

But this was a battle I knew I wouldn't win, and I left her with her prejudices.

After more than 20 years' experience of boarding schools (or 30 including my own schooldays) I am convinced that these prejudices, though understandable, are ill-founded.

For most pupils, boarding is fun! In the teenage years particularly, young people need to be in each other's company, to learn from each other, to discover how to cope with being thrown together with a range of types.

After all, that is what they will be asked to do in later life.

So many people find it difficult to work closely with others, without personality differences affecting their performance. In a boarding environment, pupils soon learn that although they may be annoyed by aspects of a person's character, they have to get along with them.

Many is the time I have seen groups of pupils who come together at the age of 13 as a disparate, motley crew – and five years later they are working together as a team in charge of a boarding house, and have found friendships that may well last a lifetime.

They have learned to accept each other "warts and all" and have discovered that there is good in everyone – it's simply a question of finding it!

I believe there is a special aura about the boarding school pupil. Forty or 50 years ago, there was an arrogance, formed by the fact that Sixth Formers ruled the roost – the Housemaster sat behind his green baize door occasionally dispensing sherry, while the prefects established a mini-feudal system designed to feather their nests and build up their egos.

This has changed. Boarding pupils are given their own space, but they are also visited frequently by adults. Common Room members are encouraged to "be a presence", to help create an environment in which pupils feel safe. What results from that is self-confidence, not arrogance.

The formidable lady and her bargepole would never be convinced. But I suspect her daughter might have been.



Touch of alchemy in science class?

NEWLANDS Preparatory School scientists struck gold when every single one of their 11-year-olds achieved Level 4 or above in the latest Key Stage Two results.

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"It is seen as a very 'hands on' subject, with a great deal of practical work involved. The foundations laid here will stand our pupils in really good stead for the technological challenges of the next millennium."

Newlands also starts a new Theatre Arts course this term. And a highly successful sporting year rounded off with the Under 10 cricket and rounders teams finishing their seasons unbeaten.

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CHRIST'S Hospital is a school with links to the Royal Navy dating back to the mid-17th century when trained navigators were needed and Samuel Pepys helped persuade Charles II to found a Royal Mathematical School.

It will hold an 'open day' at Portsmouth Central Library on September 18 (see below). Children of RN, Royal Marines, RFA and RNR personnel past or present are given special consideration for places. All receive free or subsidised boarding education according to parental income – and the unusual Tudor-style 'Housey' uniform is provided free.



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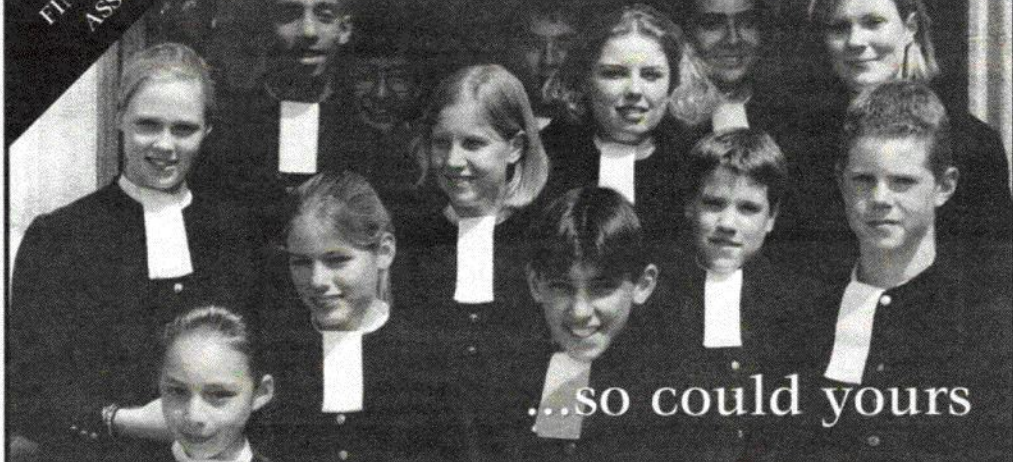
The Headmaster's secretary:

Tel: (01843) 592680 Fax: (01843) 851123

St. Lawrence College exists to provide education for children.
Charity Number: 307921

ALL
PLACES ARE
FINANCIALLY
ASSISTED

These children will have an
exceptional start in life...



...so could yours

Christ's Hospital, one of England's great boarding schools, provides outstanding education to bright boys and girls in need. Entry into year 7 and sixth form. Currently, 40% of families pay no fees at all. Children of Royal Navy, Royal Marines, RFA and RNR personnel are given special consideration for places.

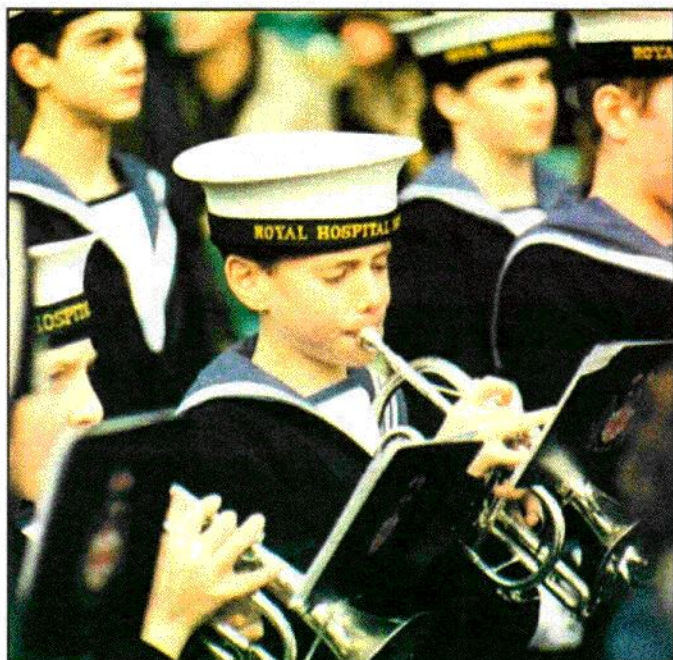
Dr Peter Southern, Head Master warmly invites families to an informal
Open Meeting on Saturday 18 September 1999
11.00am to 3.00pm - Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL · HORSHAM · WEST SUSSEX RH13 7YP
TEL: 01403 211293 FAX: 01403 211580 www.christs-hospital.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 306975

...EDUCATION FOR

A Navy News Advertising Feature



Holbrook plays its own tune

GENEROUS bursaries are offered to the children and grandchildren of seafarers by the Royal Hospital School, whose modest fees include all school uniforms as well as the Naval uniform pupils wear on ceremonial occasions.

The seafaring tradition goes hand-in-hand with Holbrook's strong musical bent.

The Chapel Choir is justly famous and has made significant contributions to the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, as well as performing in

venues such as St Paul's Cathedral and the Portsmouth Guildhall.

Last autumn the Ceremonial Marching Band entertained capacity crowds at Lord's Cricket Ground for the NatWest Final and Twickenham for the England v Australia Test Match.

In the past decade all boarding accommodation has been extensively refurbished, a new technology centre and library built and, just completed, an all-weather sports surface to complement the 96 acres of playing fields.

A wide range of sport is on offer with 60 pupils gaining representative honours for the County. The large indoor swimming pool is particularly popular for life saving,

canoeing and sub-aqua. There is a particular sailing tradition with the River Stour and the adjacent Alton Water Reservoir is in regular use.

The school has its own cinema, and social activities covering a wide range of interests. There is, not surprisingly, a strong Combined Cadet Force, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme thrives – and the school is the first in England to boast its own Auxiliary Coastguard Unit.

In the midst of all this, the need to strive for academic excellence is not forgotten. 1998 exam results with a 96.7 per cent pass rate at 'A' level and 91.4 per cent Grade A-C at GCSE were again impressive.

Royal Hospital School

Celebrating Britain's seafaring heritage through the education of children

- Excellent all-round education with high academic standards
- Magnificent 200 acre campus on the banks of the River Stour
- First class sports facilities with a tradition in sailing
- Splendid Music School including choir and marching band

All children and grandchildren of seafarers are eligible for the school's own assisted places scheme, where fees are based upon parental income

- All years 9, 10, 11 take part in C.C.F.
- Fine Art, Design and Technology Faculty
- Modern boarding accommodation
- Strong house based tutorial system

Holbrook, Suffolk IP9 2RX
Tel. 01473 326200 Fax. 01473 326213

Open Mornings:

Sat 2nd
October
and
Sat 13th
November



THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS' SCHOOL

Independent co-educational school, 4+ to 18 years day pupils.
Boarding (full or weekly) from 7 years.

Saturday Tour – 2nd Oct, 1999 Open Day – 19th Oct, 1999

- Education for the whole family on one site. Separate self contained Junior School.
- A wide range of academic options to GCSE, 'AS', 'A' Level and GNVQ. Excellent results at all levels.
- High investment in Technology in both Junior and Senior Schools.

- Purpose built complex set in 26 acres, excellent facilities for music, drama and sports (including an indoor swimming pool).
- Extensive range of extra Curricular activities.
- Academic, music and sports scholarships available for entry into many year groups, including Sixth Form.

10% reduction in fees is available to all HM Forces Personnel.

If you would like to visit or require further details, please telephone or write to: The Headmaster, Mr I Mullins Registered Charity No: 230011
London Road, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 8DR Tel: 01344 882770 Fax: 01344 890648

Open day

Saturday 16th October 9.30am-12 noon

The Duke of Kent School is an IAPS co-educational school for 190 children aged 4-13. Set in beautiful grounds and offering superb facilities, we provide a caring and happy environment for each of our pupils, with an emphasis on personal tuition and individual development.

If you would like to find out more about us, come along to our Open Day on 16th October when the Headmaster, staff and children will be happy to answer your questions and show you around.

DUKE OF KENT SCHOOL

Ewhurst, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7NS
Tel: Cranleigh (01483) 277313 Fax: (01483) 273862.
www: dukeofkent.surrey.sch.uk



BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS PREPARATORY 3-11 SENIOR 11-19

Trinity School is thriving:

We have increasing pupil numbers and first rate exam and sports results.

The School is focused on the needs of the individual and helps to build confidence, thus helping them to realise their full potential.

Courses can be tailored to nurture individual ability

Statement from a recent School leaver;

"The teachers help us become more mature, and to respect others opinions. They are all so very helpful here".

Over £2 million has been spent over the last 5 years on a structured development programme including boarding accommodation with en-suite facilities.

*You will be warmly welcomed when you visit the School.
Please contact Lesley Cunningham.*

TRINITY SCHOOL

BUCKERIDGE ROAD • TEIGNMOUTH • DEVON • TQ14 8LY
TEL (01626) 774138 FAX (01626) 771541 e-mail trinsc123@aol.com
Trinity School is a charitable institute for the education of children
Member of ISA - Reg. Charity No 276960 - Accredited by ISC

**Trinity
reaps
benefits
of £2m
uplift**

TRINITY School, an international day and boarding school for boys and girls, celebrates its 20th anniversary with confidence – and ever increasing numbers.

These have risen from 230 in 1992 to 436 in 1999, thanks in part to £2 million worth of developments carried out over a short period.

These include new classrooms and boarding accommodation with en suite facilities, opened in May this year, a new Science and Mathematical Block and tennis courts, both opened in 1997, and new hard surface sports and play areas.

Considerable investment has also been made in staff, so that small classes can be maintained, and in upgrading existing facilities to ensure that the school can continue to run smoothly with the increased numbers.

Recently multiple new computers have been installed in both the Senior and Preparatory Departments and new accommodation has been provided for the Sixth Form and Business Studies Department.

Educational and sporting results are continually improving and in the past year the latter has included National Champions in swimming and the selection of a pupil to represent Great Britain in athletics.



The Open University

OU Validation Services
awarding body
for NVQs/SVQs

Are you eligible?
for the
**OPEN UNIVERSITY
QUALIFICATION**

of
NVQ LEVEL 4

in

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Accredited 60 points @ Level 2 against an Open University Degree
via

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Entry Requirement

1. Your rank is Chief Petty Officer or above.

AND

2. You are engineering/maintainer in any of the following area/branches:-

- Computers • Propulsion: Mechanical/Electrical • Fleet Air Arm • Radar/Sonar
- Hull: Welding/Fabrication/NDE • Telecommunications • Manufacture • Weapons

This qualification is open to equivalent MOD Managers and ex-servicemen providing you are still in an engineering management position. Also open to Engineering Managers/Graduates seeking 'Continuing Professional Development' – Lifelong Learning programmes with Engineering Institutes

For further information contact Alison Sheridan

Halton College, Brosely House, Widnes WA8 6AH

Tel: 0151 423 1391 Ext 2224; Fax: 0151 257 9003

E-Mail: cbseng@haltoncollege.ac.uk

THE NEXT CENTURY



A Navy News Advertising Feature

Long past, lively future

MANWOOD'S goes back a long way – to 1563 – but prefers to look to the future.

Record A-level and GCSE passes take Sir Roger Manwood's School into the next century – together with an enviable reputation, new sports hall, astroturf, technology block and science block added to already impressive facilities.

A mixed 11-18 grammar school in the Cinque Port of Sandwich, close to Dover for ferries and to Ashford for the Euro-tunnel, Manwood's enjoys a prime position in 30 acres of this quiet market town.

There are now 740 pupils, boys and girls, the majority being day pupils from Deal, Sandwich and neighbouring villages.

The two Boarding Houses have both been extensively refurbished.



WENTWORTH, one of Dorset's premier girls' day and boarding schools, is offering to take both boys and girls aged 8-14 in the Bournemouth area off their parents' hands as they see in the new millennium.

For £200 the children will be fed, entertained and given a bed for the night. Activities provided under the watchful eyes of professional staff will include:

- Roller disco

- Wide screen television
- Team games
- Craft work (paint your own millennium mug)
- Swimming in the school's own 25m heated pool
- Canoeing
- Firework displays.

Numbers are limited, so parents are advised to book their night of freedom early by contacting the school office on 01202 423266.

MILLENNIUM SLEEPOVER HERE FOR £200!

Wentworth College

College Road, Bournemouth BH5 2DY
Tel: 01202 423266



Happy day & boarding for girls 11-18

Find out more on our website: www.wentworthcollege.org.uk

Choosing a School?

ISIS
Independent Schools
Information Service

VISIT THE FREE ISIS SCHOOLS EXHIBITION

King Alfred's Hall, Winchester
Sat 2nd October 1999 (10am-4pm)

Meet representatives from local independent schools. Free advice on entry requirements, financial assistance and scholarships plus free regional ISIS handbook giving details of schools in your area.

Tel: 01736 799250

(quoting ref. NN09/99) or write to:
ISIS (South and West), Trevarrack House,
Lelant, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 3HA

GRAMERCY HALL SCHOOL

CHURSTON FERRERS, TORBAY, TQ5 0HR

"Small friendly and where ALL children enjoy success!"

A co-educational independent day and boarding school
for children aged 2½ – 16+ years

13+ scholarships available for September, 1999

For prospectus please contact Mrs. Beryl McNeil – 01803 844338



GRENVILLE COLLEGE

Bideford, Devon, EX39 3JR

Co-educational Boarding and Day
2½ - 18 years (Boarding from age 8)

- ★ Caring and friendly environment
- ★ Staff ratio 1:9
- ★ Excellent academic record
- ★ GCSE, AS, A-level and GNVQ courses
- ★ Dyslexia Unit – 29 years' experience
- ★ Sixth Form Study Centre
- ★ Superb location for outdoor activities, close to sea and moors
- ★ Extensive grounds ★ Strong sporting tradition
- ★ Stabling and exercise rides for resident pupils' ponies
- ★ Substantial Service bursaries - where Boarding School Allowance is payable, we guarantee your contribution is only 10% of fees

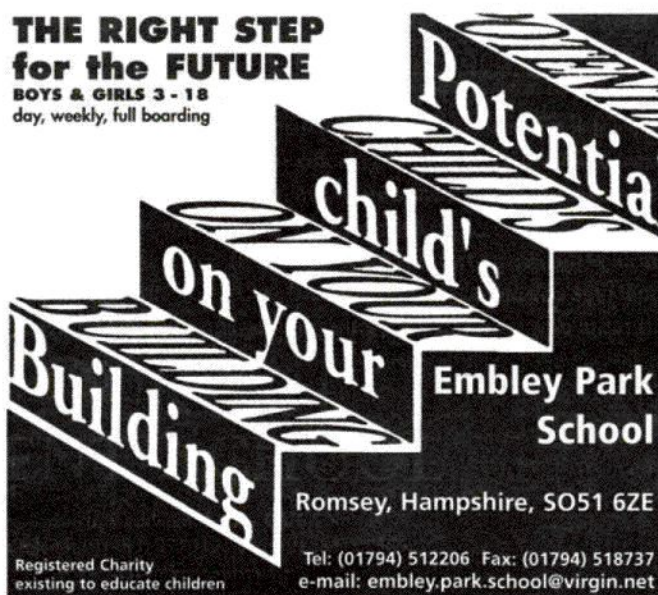
Tel: 01237 472212 or Fax: 01237 477020

website – <http://www.grenville.devon.sch.uk>

Registered Charity No.306718

THE RIGHT STEP for the FUTURE

BOYS & GIRLS 3 - 18
day, weekly, full boarding



Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6ZE

Registered Charity
existing to educate children

Tel: (01794) 512206 Fax: (01794) 518737
e-mail: embley.park.school@virgin.net

Sir Roger Manwood's School

Founded 1563

Sandwich Kent CT13 9JX

Tel: (01304) 613286 Fax: (01304) 615336

Email: headsrm@rmplc.co.uk

Grant Maintained Mixed Grammar School

11-18 (720 pupils) 6th Form (170 pupils) 70 Boarding Pupils

BOARDING FEES £4,734 PER YEAR - NO TUITION FEES

Featured in Sunday Times Good State School Guide

Applications for boarding places should be made now
Strong extra-curricular tradition - Safe environment
Excellent boarding in Kent

Close to Sandwich Station for trains to London and Dover for
Cross-Channel Services

Full details and prospectus may be obtained by writing,
telephoning or by fax to the Headmaster



BOUNDARY OAK SCHOOL

Roche Court, Wickham Road,
FAREHAM. PO17 5BL

Co-educational Nursery & Preparatory School (Day & Boarding)

Nursery school: rising 3-5 years

Preparatory Department: 5-13 years

GIRLS' BOARDING AVAILABLE

Family atmosphere ★ Large Sports Grounds ★ Strong Forces Link

For full details of Scholarships and a Prospectus

Please Telephone: FAREHAM (01329) 280955. Reg Charity 307346

THE ROYAL SCHOOL HAMPSTEAD

Principal: Mrs C.A. Stibson B.A. (Oxon)



**INDEPENDENT BOARDING AND DAY
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS 7-18 YEARS**

A HOME FROM HOME FOR YOUR DAUGHTER

Here in Hampstead, your daughter can receive an excellent education whilst studying in a caring, happy and secure environment. We provide:

- A broad based curriculum, well qualified staff and small classes.
- Flourishing activities including Sport, Drama, Dance and Music.
- Modern accommodation with good facilities.
- Frequent educational and cultural visits.
- Escort for young girls to travel termini.

Applications are also invited from ex-servicemen in need, for whose daughters significant fee reductions could be available, if suitably qualified.

Please contact:

The Admissions Secretary, The Royal School,
Hampstead, 65 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 5UD.

Tel: 0171 794 7707

A Registered charity founded for the education of the daughters of servicemen

Monkton Combe SCHOOL

PRE-PREP JUNIOR SENIOR

BOYS AND GIRLS BOARDING AND DAY 2-19

OPEN MORNINGS

Senior School – Saturday 2nd October 1999

Junior School & Pre-Prep

Saturday 9th October 1999

COME AND SEE US OR SEND FOR A PROSPECTUS

Please send a PROSPECTUS and OPEN DAY details
for the Senior School ☐ Junior School ☐ Pre-Prep ☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Please return coupon to: Mrs Patricia Neaverson, Monkton Combe School
BATH BA2 7HG Tel: 01225 721133 Fax: 01225 721181

<http://www.isis.org.uk/sites/monkton/> email: jh28@diat.pipex.com

HOLDING TO THAT WHICH IS GOOD

...EDUCATION FOR

A Navy News Advertising Feature

SETTING TO SHINE IN



SEAFORD COLLEGE

PETWORTH, WEST SUSSEX

FOR ALL-ROUND EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

A Co-Educational School for Pupils aged 10-18 Boarding,
Weekly Boarding and Day Pupils Welcome

A Curriculum offering a complete range of A Levels and GCSEs
Small classes - personal tuition

Special Needs Support for Dyslexic & Dispraxic pupils

Superb Art and Design Department, Internationally renowned Choir
Extensive Sports Facilities in the College Grounds

Long Established & Well Attended Combined Cadet Force

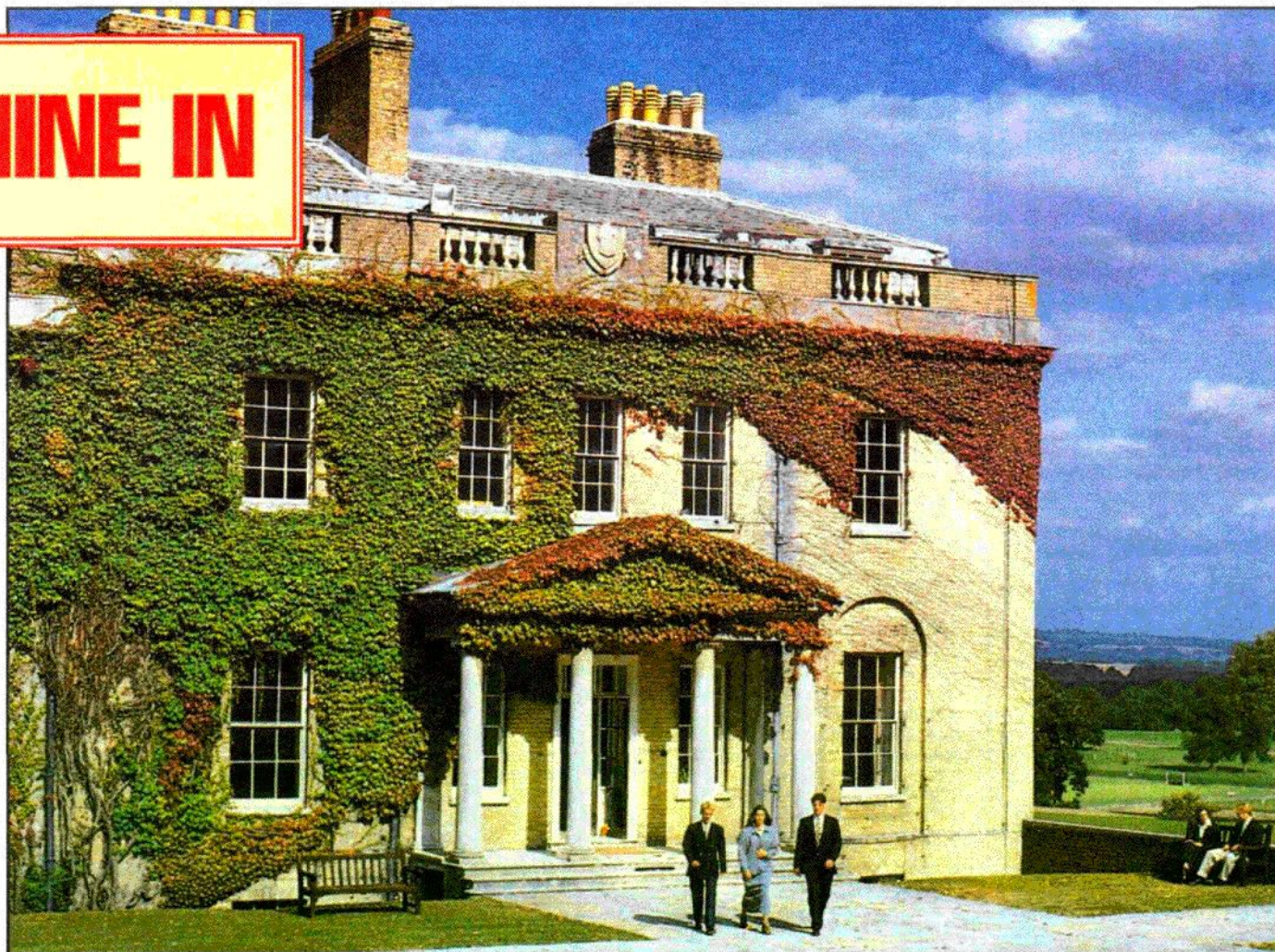
Scholarships offered for Academic, Art, Design & Technology,
Music (Choral & Orchestral) and Sport

Bursaries offered to Siblings & Serving Members of Her Majesty's Forces

Transport for Day Pupils from surrounding Towns and Villages
Open Mornings arranged every Term

For more information call the Admissions Secretary
on 01798 867392

The Johnson Trust Ltd. Registered Charity No. 277439



Convert your experience into qualifications...

Vocational Education Training Programme

The following BTEC Qualifications (NC,ND,HNC,HND,CMS & DMS) are available under the above programme.

Faculty of Technology

BS EN ISO 9002 REGISTERED

- PLANT ENGINEERING (NC, ND, HNC, HND)
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (HNC, HND)
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (HNC, HND)
- ELECTRONICS (HNC, HND)
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS (HNC, HND)

Faculty of Business and Management

- CERTIFICATE IN MANAGEMENT STUDIES (CMS)
- DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT STUDIES (DMS)
- PROFESSIONAL AWARD IN SUPERVISORY MANAGEMENT
- INTRODUCTION TO SUPERVISORY MANAGEMENT

The programme is an initiative by Blackburn College to assist individuals to attain recognised qualifications using the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) process for a portion of the award

Interested?

Then contact Barbara Clarkson, Faculty of Technology, Blackburn College, Feilden Street, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 1LH.

Telephone: 01254 694441/691237/692417/672328 Fax: 01254 679647



BLACKBURN COLLEGE

FEILDEN STREET, BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE BB2 1LH

Blackburn College exists to serve the educational and cultural needs of the local, national and international community

CHILTON CANTELO SCHOOL IMPORTANT

TO: Parents willing to invest £253 (+BSA) per term in their child's future.

FROM: Chilton Cantelo, a small 'family' school (Dorset/Somerset borders) offering a broad first-class education to boys and girls aged 7 - 18.

RE: Further information, please contact us today on (01935) 850555 to arrange a visit.

OLD SWINFORD STOURBRIDGE

Founded 1667

550 Boys 11-18 190 in Sixth Form 380 Weekly and Full Boarders

FULL BOARDING FEES £2000 PER TERM NO EDUCATION COSTS

- Average class size 12 in the Sixth Form and 20 below Sixth Form
- 14 Oxbridge places in 1998 & 99
- 98% proceed to University
- Sports Mark Gold Award
- Fees well within Boarding Allowance
- Weekend Outdoor Pursuits
- Boarding accommodation in small units
- All Sixth Form boarders have individual study-bedrooms
- Admission at 11+, 13+ and Sixth Form
- Pupils escorted to major airports
- Website - www.old-swinford.dudley.sch.uk

If you would like us to send a prospectus, or you wish to visit the school, please phone or write to The Admissions Secretary

OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL

Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 1QX
Tel: (01384) 398225 Fax: (01384) 441686

e-mail: oldswinfordhospital@rmplc.co.uk

A REGISTERED CHARITY WHICH EXISTS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR BOYS



SEAFORD College has one of the most beautiful settings afforded by any school in the country, at the foot of the South Downs just south of the historic town of Petworth.

A small, friendly fully co-educational school, it offers options for boarding, weekly boarding or day pupils for up to 350 children aged 10-18.

The College's facilities offer its pupils the scope to shine in every aspect of life, as well as academically. There is a wide range of subjects to choose from at GCSE and A-level, including the usual core subjects plus Physical Education, Design and Technology, Business Studies, Drama and Music.

There is an impressive Art and Design department where students are able to work in almost any medium they feel right for their project. The central gallery is in constant use with displays of students' work of astoundingly high quality.

The Art department enjoys a consistently high standard of work and every year achieves exceptional results at A-level and GCSE.

With excellent sporting facilities and staff who have coached at international level, the school has achieved a long-standing reputation in the major team sports.

The College Chapel Choir is internationally acclaimed and both the choir and the sporting teams embark on regular overseas tours.

Further extra-curricular activities include a thriving Music and Drama department who put on concerts, recitals, plays and revues several times each year. The Combined Cadet Force is well supported by pupils and staff with all branches of the Armed Forces represented.

The Special Needs department offers individual support to those pupils with dyslexic and dyspraxic difficulties.

□ Open mornings twice a term.

THE NEXT CENTURY



A Navy News Advertising Feature

Top twenty hit two years running

IN 1998 Gordon's School in Woking came in the top twenty most improved schools in the country.

In so doing, it achieved the unique distinction of being the only school in Britain to feature in the Government's top twenty most improved list for two years in succession. On current improvement rates, it is likely to feature yet again in 1999.

Under new Headmaster Denis Mulkerrin, Gordon's improved from 43 per cent of pupils achieving five or more pass grades at GCSE in 1994 to 73 per cent in 1998. In 1999 it will be over 80 per cent.

For a non-selective school – there are no entry exams – these figures put Gordon's amongst the very top schools in Britain.

Since the appointment of Mr Mulkerrin in 1995 there have been many changes at Gordon's. The principal one has been the doubling of the size of the school to over 500 pupils. Other changes have included the appointment of many new and dynamic staff, a huge outlay on computer and IT facilities, the establishment of a Sixth Form, and a £1.6 million building programme to meet a massive demand for places.

With its unique historical traditions and superb boarding facilities situated in 50 acres of Surrey parkland, Gordon's offers pupils a very full life. In addition to the major games and an outstanding music department, pupils can choose from over 30 clubs which range from swimming to mountain biking, from sailing to horse riding. The CCF is particularly successful and in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme over 50 pupils gain medals each year.

Because Gordon's is a boarding school with Grant Maintained status, parents pay for boarding only; they do not pay tuition fees. As such it is increasingly seen by parents as an attractive alternative to independent boarding schools.

It offers high quality boarding education at an affordable price while at the same time having the traditional values and excellence of many of the prestigious independent schools.

Rose Hill – market leader in 'hotel boarding'

FOUNDED in 1832, Rose Hill is one of the oldest established Prep schools in the UK – and one of the top 500 in the world.

It is no accident that it was recently profiled in the Best Schools List of the *Sunday Times*.

Rose Hill styles itself as "a true Educational Hotel". Indeed, the school is a market leader in hotel boarding, having provided the service for nearly ten years now.

This year 58 per cent of Sixth Form leavers won Gold Leaf Awards to their chosen public schools – and not for academic success alone.

This is a highly musical school with three choirs, an orchestra and a wind band. The choirs have won at the Cheltenham Music Festival for the past three years running.

This year two girls have been chosen as Choral Scholars by the Head of Junior Voice at the Royal Academy.

Said a spokesman: "At Rose Hill we care for the individual needs of all our children. We believe in the pursuit of excellence and the value of academic rigour in the classroom."

"We challenge the children's strengths and support their weaknesses ... and there is a superb Learning Support Programme, staffed by experts in special educational needs to help us get it right for everybody."

"We believe that a child's happiness lies at the base of everything and, as a result, we have a school full of busy, happy and very successful young people."

Rose Hill
School

Providing
Quality Education
in a
Demanding World
Children aged
6 - 13 yrs.

Registered Charity No. 311708



Your children would love it here at Rose Hill. It's like a real family and we all care about each other. The work is challenging, but our results are amazing. Rose Hill believes in the pursuit of excellence; and the staff give the children all the help they need, always encouraging them to give of their very best. The children also have at least four hours of sport every week; and there are a host of activities to choose from as well.

We have a wonderful, vibrant, boarding programme; and the day children sleep over as well all the time. It is much more like being in a country hotel than boarding at school. The matrons are lovely and the food is delicious.

Come along and see for yourselves. School doesn't have to be all work... it can be fun as well!

Phone now, 01453 843196, for your Rose Hill, experience.

Alderley, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 7QT

Telephone: (01453) 843196 and 521524 Fax: (01453) 842765

Headmaster: R.C.G. Lyne-Pirkis Cert Ed., MBIM

GORDON'S SCHOOL

WEST END
WOKING, SURREY

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
HEADMASTER: DENIS MULKERRIN MA

Gordon's is a small, Voluntary Aided, co-educational school which caters for some 480 boarders aged 11 to 18. Thirty minutes from Heathrow, the School is situated in fifty acres of Surrey countryside and has quite outstanding facilities.

Gordon's has a strong emphasis on academic standards, self discipline, high expectations and traditional values. In its recent Ofsted Inspection Gordon's was described as "a very good School with a number of unique features". For the last two years Gordon's has been ranked in the top twenty most improved schools in Britain.

As a Voluntary Aided School there are no tuition fees, parents pay only the boarding fee which is well within the Forces allowances.

For further information and School video, please contact;

The Headmaster, Gordon's School, West End, Woking,
Surrey GU24 9PT Tel: 01276 858084.

Web: <http://www.gordons.surrey.sch.uk> E-Mail: gordonschool@tcns.co.uk

Gordon's School is a registered Charity which exists to provide education for children.
Registered Charity No. 312092



ST PETROC'S SCHOOL

Ocean View Road, Bude, Cornwall,
EX23 8NJ

Tel: (01288) 352876

Headmaster: R.N. Baird, B.A., P.G.C.E.

Would your child benefit from the following?

*Class sizes between 12 and 16

*Individual attention

*Academic reports every 3 weeks

*Well-disciplined, friendly environment

*Staff who care and encourage

St Petroc's is a preparatory school catering for boys and girls from the age of 3 to 14 years. From the age of 7, children may board (weekly or full boarding)

St Petroc's accepts the full B.S.A. as payment of fees

A registered charity (number 306578) founded to provide education



DOWNSIDE

THE SEVEN DAY A WEEK BOARDING
& DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS 9 - 18

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR

MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS
DAY & BOARDING PLACES

Open Day 27th February

Please contact the Registrar,
Downside School, Stratton on the Fosse,
Bath, BA3 4RJ, U.K.

Tel: 01761 235100

Fax: 01761 235105

E-mail: registrar@downside.co.uk

GREAT BALLARD SCHOOL

Co-educational IAPS Day & Boarding 2-13



• Saturday morning
lessons years
7 & 8 only.

• Specialist small
group teaching.

• Flexible boarding
arrangements.

For further details, please contact:
Great Ballard School, Eartham
(between Chichester & Arundel)
on 01243 814236



QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL

Set in 45 acres of beautiful Perthshire countryside

- ♦ Stable and uninterrupted co-educational boarding for 11 - 18 year olds;
- ♦ Quality education including school clothing at low cost - termly fees £165;
- ♦ Overall pupil teacher ratio 8.5 to 1; total school roll 270;
- ♦ Eligibility includes children of Service personnel, serving or have served in Scotland; ♦ Easily accessible by road, rail or air;
- ♦ Warm, friendly, lively atmosphere where pastoral care takes high priority;
- ♦ School hospital and resident Sister;
- ♦ Full range of curriculum following the Scottish Education system;
- ♦ Extensive programme of sport, music and extra-curricular activities;

Visits to the School are welcome at any time.

For prospectus and further information or an appointment.

THE HEADMASTER, QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL
DUNBLANE, PERTHSHIRE. FK15 0JY

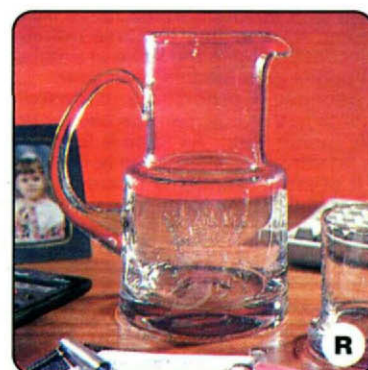
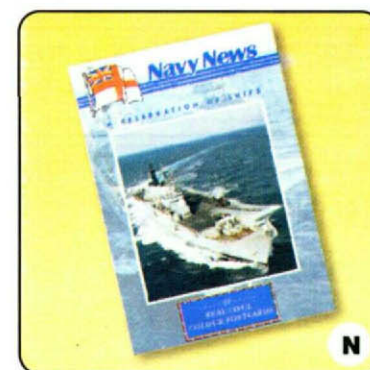
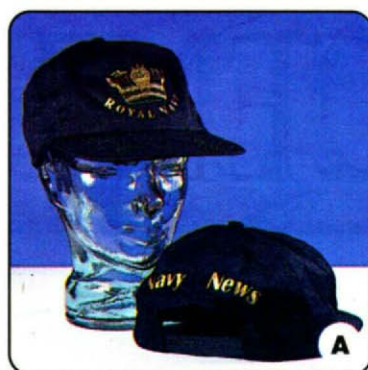
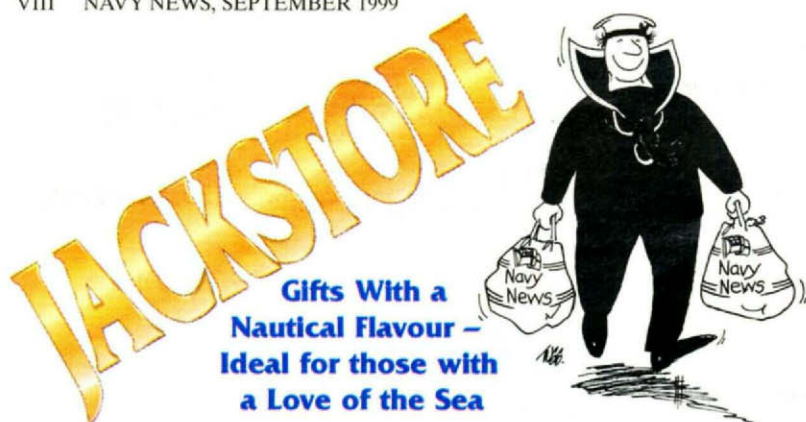
Tel: 0131 310 2901 or 01786 822288 Fax: 0131 310 2926



Further enquires to:
Headmaster - The Duke of York's School
Dover CT15 5EQ
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